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the earth issue

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local colour: what's on the map for 2008?

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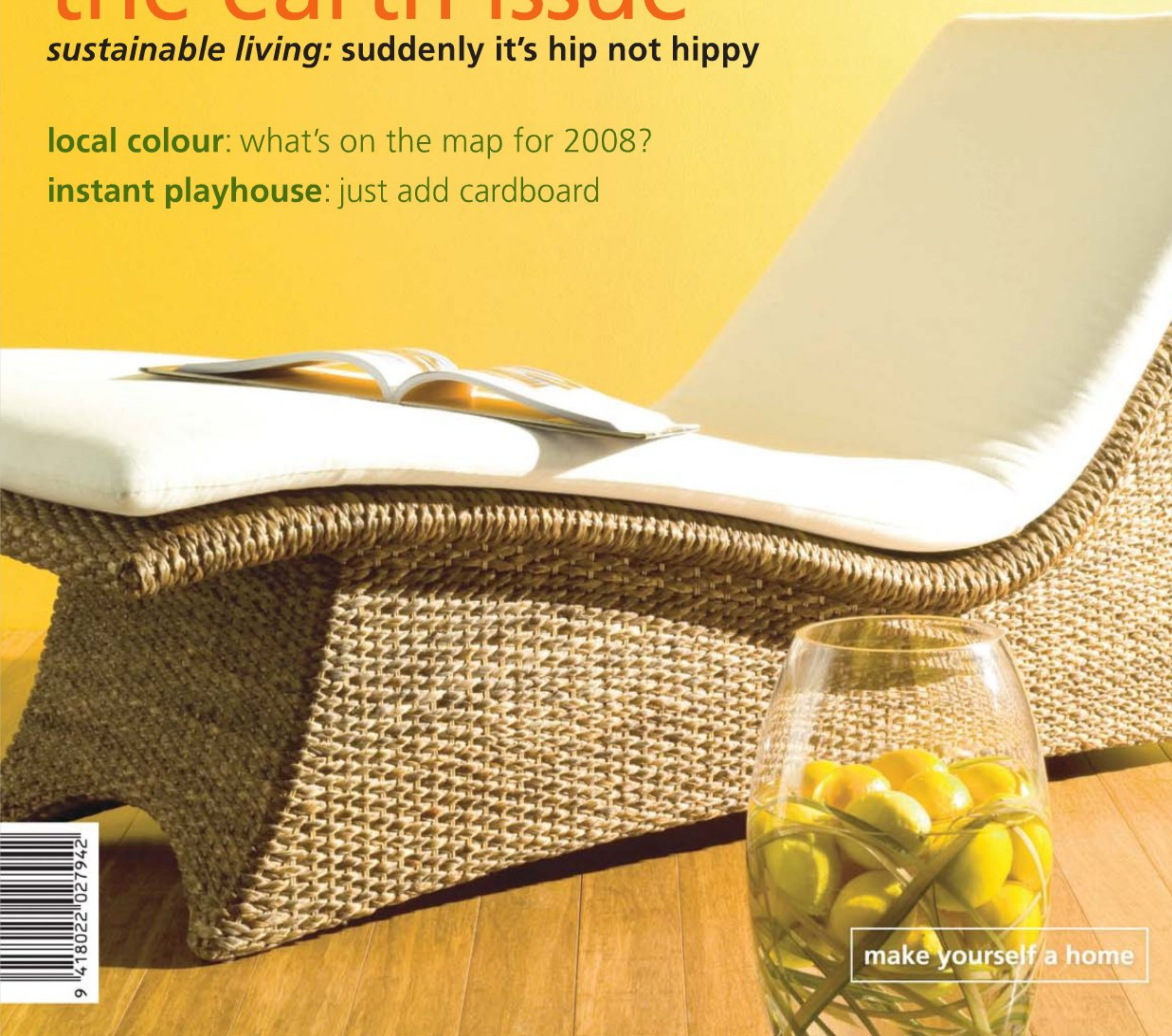

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Your personality Our expertise

from the editor

They're all over the news: Catchwords such as carbon footprint, food miles, emission credits, and environmental cost of production.

It's taken a long time, but we're starting to realise the need to take some responsibility for the way we treat the world. Quite apart from the raging debates – is the earth actually in a cooling cycle, is global warming pure hypothesis or fact – many of the ideas under discussion come down not just to sustainability, but to how we can live more healthily.

So, welcome to *Habitat*'s earth issue. Here, you'll find ideas on lessening your impact on the world around you and improving your quality of life at the same time. We visit a stunning rammed earth home in Otago, and a cutting edge energy-efficient home in Auckland.

On your home front, we show you the step-by-step construction of a triple composting system. We investigate how to go about choosing and hiring an arborist to make the most of your trees, and take a look at how to responsibly dispose of left-over renovation materials.

We also introduce you to a body artist, a commercial model-maker, and a man with a bone to pick with taggers.

Enjoy your spring read!

Rachel

from Resene

Imagine using a vermilion paint, coloured by pigments made from a mercury compound, on your bathroom walls, or perhaps choosing a green paint containing arsenic to finish the fence. Both scenarios are ridiculous to contemplate today, yet were commonplace less than a century ago.

Significant technological leaps have been made since then to produce a whole range of materials that create less environmental impact than their predecessors, making it safer for product users and building occupants, and easier on the environment. These include Environmental Choice-approved paints, carpets, plasterboard and much more.

Resene has always focused on the need to reduce the risk products may present to customers and the environment, long before such an attitude became fashionable. First, there was the basic innovation of Resene waterborne paints to reduce the level of toxic solvents. Other steps such as the removal of lead from Resene decorative paints in the late 1960s, gaining Environmental Choice approval on an extensive range of Resene paints in 1996, and launching the PaintWise paint recovery programme in 2004 have all been well ahead of their time.

Today, just 8% of the decorative paint Resene sells is solventborne – the company's average solvent levels have dropped by more than 90% in two decades. The first waterborne paint was launched here by Resene in 1951, and just half a century on, it is now possible to paint entire homes and buildings inside and out with waterborne paint.

Colour charts, such as The Range fandeck, which would once have been finished in solventborne inks, now feature chips finished in Environmental Choice-approved Resene paints. What's more, they are printed on paper stock from sustainably managed forests, using vegetable inks.

The journey towards sustainability is never-ending, but each step along the path is rewarding and worth the effort. Every little thing you can do in your home or work may not seem like much, but collectively it all helps to keep our environment green for future generations to enjoy as much as we do.

Let's keep it green!

The Resene Team

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12 anything but retiring
Sustainability meets modern design and contemporary living

23 special effects
Throw away the canvas – try body-painting instead

28 testpots
Today's design and decorating innovations

58 nikau, nikau, on the wall
How do our surroundings and lifestyle dictate how we see colour?

63 with nature in mind
A bathroom that's green in more ways than one

70 win with Habitat

72 tips & tricks
Saving water

94 step-by-step
Laying paving

102 model business
Making a living out of miniatures

105 choosing and using…
An arborist

108 diy kidz
Entertainment in a box

119 responsible renovating
Think energy efficiency

122 going green
Working from home

38 let the sun shine
This rammed earth home takes its inspiration from the environment around it

48 sign of the times
Meet a man with a mission against graffiti

53 mucking around in boats
Nautical inspiration in a lakeside kitchen

76 the hard truth about saving power

79 beginner's guide to
Resene EzyPaint

82 step-by-step
Making a compost heap

86 decked out
Relaxed outdoor living

111 no effort wasted
Reducing your household's eco-footprint with the WA$TED team

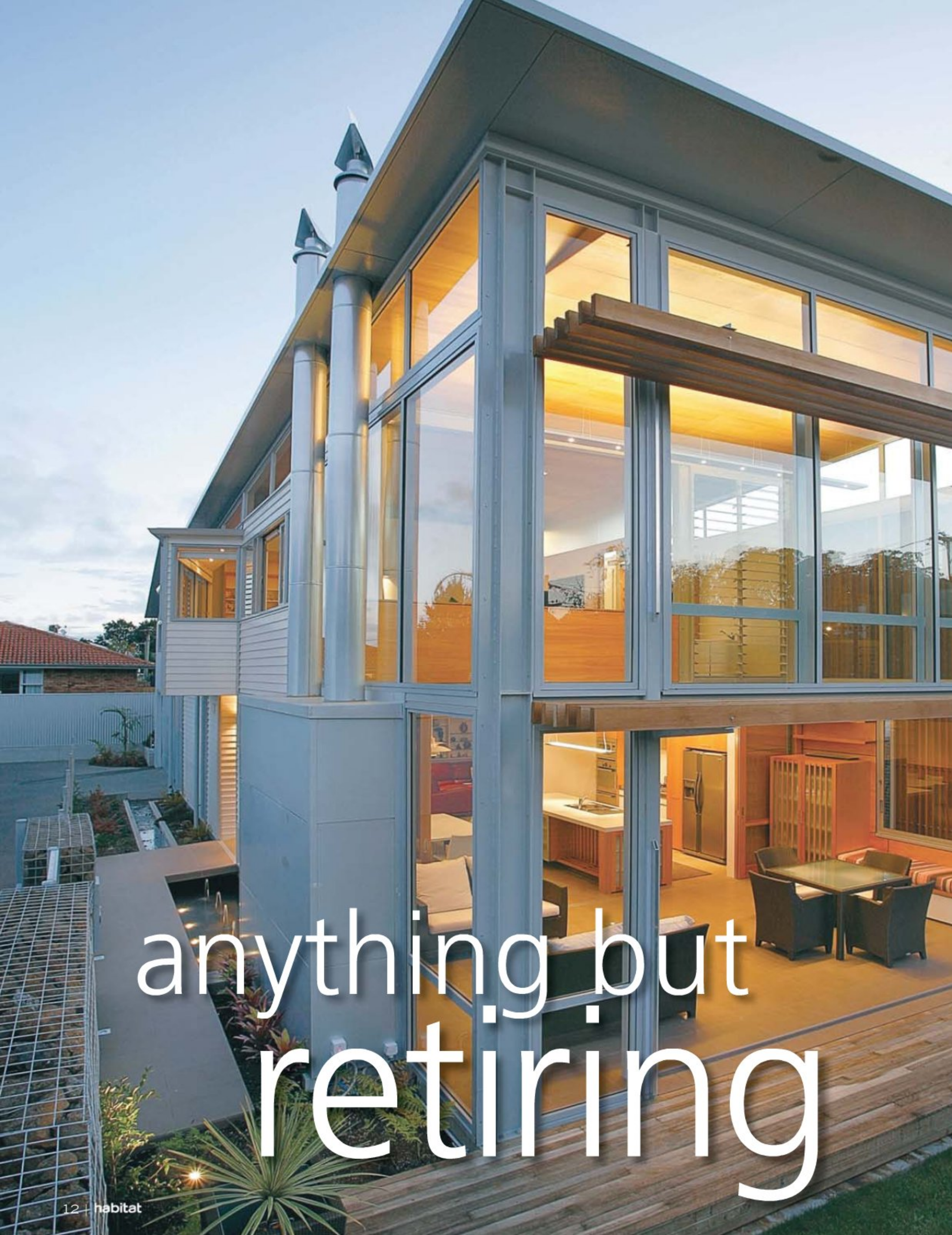
114 in touch with your roots
Maggie Barry discusses responsible gardening

116 from Resene
Reader offers and discounts

124 off the shelf
New to market

128 that rocks!
Once a tennis court, now a water-saving garden

130 hey, Habitat
Your questions and views



anything but retiring

words: Robyn Yousef
pictures: Kallan MacLeod and Victor Chia

The crisp, contemporary lines of this house, named MountainView by its designer – who created it for his parents' retirement – make a strong 21st century style statement in a street dominated by villas from the 1900s, in Auckland's Mt Eden.

However, this elegant residence is also a prime successful example of a home that upholds the principles of sustainable design and eco-responsibility. Built to take full advantage of the sun – along with magnificent views of Maungawhau (Mt Eden) – MountainView incorporates a raft of environmentally friendly features, and works wonderfully well for Elaine and Alan Strachan and their large extended family.

Designed by the couple's son Dave and his fellow director, Pat de Pont, at Auckland-based Strachan Group Architects (SGA), it is located on the site of a 1910 worker's cottage. The original home has been re-sited and is now in use in Rotorua as a home and office.

Dave Strachan undertook his Masters degree in sustainable design, and environmental ethics underpin all the work carried out by the design team at SGA. The firm has won seven NZIA Resene Architecture Awards, including a National Award this year, and most of them have been for buildings with a strong environmental agenda. And the careful design of MountainView practically demonstrates how feasible it is to live in an architecturally designed home while considering the environment, even in the construction stage. Using one of the basic principles of ecologically sustainable architecture, the house was oriented to face north to capture the full benefits of the sun. Its double-height glass frontage also faces the mountain, providing slices of rural vista between the suburban surroundings, while the two-storey atrium attracts light and warmth.

"This was particularly important, as the site and house are rectangular, elongated in a north/south direction. The atrium allows the sun to penetrate more deeply into the building," Pat de Pont explains.

Another eco-friendly feature is the installation of insulating polystyrene under the tiled concrete slab floor system. The roof and walls also offer a high level of insulation, using Gold Pink Batts made from 70% recycled glass. The external cladding is finger-jointed weatherboards made from high-quality cedar off-cuts sourced from sustainable Canadian forests. There is also a 5000- litre rainwater tank, solar panels on the roof, a wood-burner for space heating, louvres for natural cross-ventilation, and three layers of sunscreening.

The exterior cedar sunscreens play an important role in preventing too much solar gain in the summer from the north and west. This, in turn, allows the thermal mass of the concrete floor to help keep the house cool. In winter, the lower western screen slides back to allow the sun to penetrate and warm the concrete inside.

"These houses have to be 'driven' to perform at their best. The occupants play an active role in tempering their own environment; opening or closing windows, shutters, screens and blinds to track the sun or the breeze," Pat explains.

Designed by the couple's son Dave and his fellow director, Pat de Pont, at Auckland-based Strachan Group Architects (SGA), it is located on the site of a 1910 worker's cottage.

While, from a stylistic point of view, the house is totally different from the surrounding villas, the architects were careful to ensure that the roof-line of the two-storied building was not higher than its neighbours. They also integrated the flavour of the street into their choice of

alternative ideas for this interior on pages 18-21

materials. Pat points out that the gabion boundary walls, for example, are made from volcanic rock taken from the site when it was cleared, also saving the money and energy of removal.

"And we tried to reference the area by using timber weatherboards and corrugated iron, as were used in the original building."

Although the house is only a few minutes' walk from the heart of Mt Eden, views of the mountain are framed from several aspects and the powerful presence of Maungawhau also influenced the design.

"Traditional painted weatherboards and natural timber provide links to the existing housing, and are combined with materials that are fire-formed like the volcano: Steel portal frames, glass, and caged rocks," Pat says.

When I visited MountainView, it was a very cold and blustery winter's day, but the solar heating in the house and the warmth radiating from the concrete floors made it incredibly cosy. For Elaine and Alan, the move from Mission Bay to Mt Eden in their semi-retirement has been hugely beneficial, and they are totally happy with their new home.

"For years, we lived in older wooden houses, which were often damp and cold, and required lots of caretaking. Here, it all so easy to keep clean and, with the solar heating and extra insulation, we seldom have to use electrical heating. Our power bills have been cut in half," Elaine explains.

Living in the hub of Mt Eden means they don't have to use the car so much, and they're closer to their antiques business, based in nearby Epsom. It also means they are now more accessible to their five children (they can see Dave's home from their bedroom window), 17 grandchildren and many friends.

They grow their own vegetables on-site, with an attractive garden including a mix of fruit trees, ornamental plants and vegetables built on the sunny western side of the house. This has been created in raised beds with concrete edgings to make gardening easier.

The exterior cedar sunscreens play an important role in preventing too much solar gain in the summer from the north and west.

"It's better this way for me, with my tricky knees," Alan explains.

Even the clothesline has been adapted for ease of use, and there are areas of grass for the grandchildren to play out on. The water tank is tucked away at the back of the house, while along the eastern side a channel of water running over river stones, gives a peaceful Zen-like grace to the garden. It also has a practical purpose, conditioning the air and dragging a cooling breeze through the house when the hot northerly blows in the summer.

Protect exterior timber from the environment with Environmental Choice-approved Resene Waterborne Woodsman, ideal for weatherboards to keep them looking good for longer. See the Resene Exterior wood stains colour chart for the Resene Waterborne Woodsman colour range.

Inside, a series of sliding cavity doors means the kitchen, dining and living spaces on the bottom level can be used as one large room, or converted into two or even three intimate areas. This is ideal for the Strachans, as they can use the small spaces when they are home together, while at other times there's ample room for their extended family of 30.

A huge sliding glass door also brings the outdoors inside, making for fabulous flow and a wonderful entertaining space. When the door – which operates on a hydraulic pulley system, and is 4.8m wide and 2.4m high – is lifted, the front yard effectively becomes part of the ground floor. This alfresco extension was first used for a twilight autumn party to unveil a magnificent stainless-steel-and-glass water feature by Auckland glass artist Darryl Fagence, of Glass Creations. This is attached to the front wall, along with another stainless-steel wall sculpture by the same artist. Both have been designed to complement the steel caging of the gabion wall.

An internal lift to the second floor is a real benefit for the couple, who love to entertain and have many elderly friends. Their formal living room is on the second level, along with the master bedroom, ensuite complete with a spa bath, dressing room, two guest rooms and a guest bathroom. There is also a small kitchen upstairs for tea- and coffee-making.

The couple's extensive collection of antiques melds perfectly with their many modern pieces. In the formal lounge, a very early and ornate French cabinet looks perfectly at home beside a contemporary leather couch. In fact, they use every room in the house – there's even a special-duty carpet laid in the garage (which doubles as a laundry) so the grandchildren can stage their shows here.

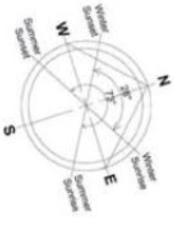
A bright orange door in Resene Hero welcomes visitors into MountainView, where you don't have to remove your shoes. As Elaine says, it is a "working house".

"This house has everything we wish – it just suits us down to the ground," Alan says. "We enjoy our home; it is elegant, functional and so energy-efficient." H

first floor plan

1 Living
2 Kitchen
3 Dining
4 Bedroom
5 Outdoor room
6 Bathroom
7 Ensuite
8 Entry
9 Dressing
10 Study
11 Garage
12 Laundry
13 Lifts
14 Void

ground floor plan



Architects: Pat de Pont and Dave Strachan from SGA

Builder: Bramley Contractors

Resene Aspiring

Aluminium joinery: Morgan Aluminium

Vertical sliding door: Crittall – Arnold & Metalbilt

Resene Carpe Diem

Kitchen and bathroom cabinets: Victorian ash veneer and Designer White Melteca, designed by SGA Ltd Design, built by Leslie A.J. & Co Ltd Cabinetmakers

Resene Lemon Twist

Sink: Franke stainless steel

Taps and shower fittings: Linea from Eurohaus

Resene Spanish White

Get the interior look with Resene Spanish White and Resene Hero. Get the exterior look with choice-approved Resene Waterborne Woodsman.

Resene Wasabi

Resene Hero

on the following pages, find two alternative style suggestions

^ Try texture in the bathroom!

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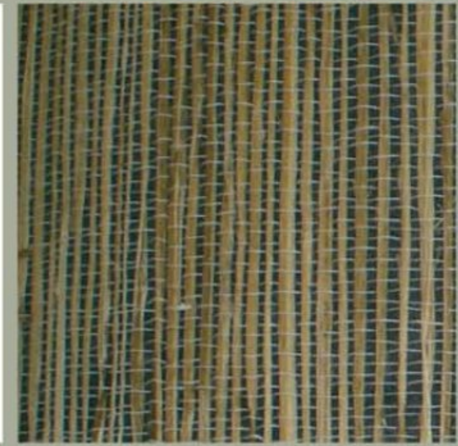

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David Bell

from Cork Concepts suggests this alternative design:

Incorporating natural, sustainable products that calm the senses, this scheme was devised as a tranquil retreat from the harsh everyday world. The bathroom features textured natural materials such as timber, reed or jute, clay and cork, which combine to give a relaxed and contemporary feel. Unlike cold, hard ceramic tiles, the cork flooring provides warmth and comfort, while the Koura hanging shades further soften the environment and add an artistic focal point. Neutral colours, including Resene Greywacke on the walls, give the room a soft, inviting feel and complement the adjoining bedroom.

phone 09 443 3134, website www.corkconcepts.com

^ Siting the fittings in this bathroom capitalises on light and functionality.

Resene Soapstone

<

Villeroy & Boch Subway
back-to-wall toilet

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www.patrade.co.nz

>

Pom d'or square bowl

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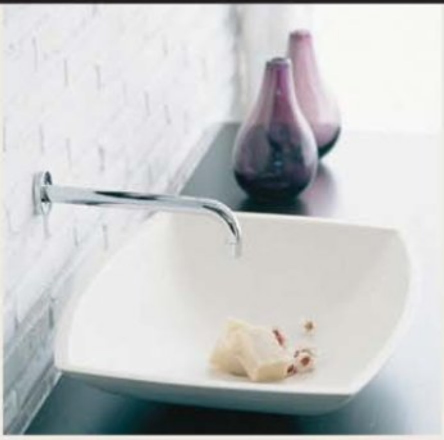

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Vanity, Pom d'or wall-hung vanity

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www.milano-agencies.co.nz

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Wall-hung Mamoli Fuente tap

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Resene
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Mamoli Fuente
Shower mixer and diverter

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Stephanie Weldon-Day

from Create NZ offers this alternative bathroom scheme:

A colour palette of black and white softened by chocolate-toned timber lends a contemporary feel to this design. Resene White Pointer is a lovely soft grey-white that adds a fresh look to the black and timber elements. Repositioning the vanity and toilet, and replacing the bath with a glass shower stall, helps make the space very functional. It also maximises the natural light around the vanity, which is accented against a section of wall painted Resene Maxwell Smart. The wall-hung Pom d'or vanity has a black-grained chocolate ebony wood finish and a black square bowl to complement the black floor tiles with charcoal grout. Timber window louvres painted Resene Maxwell Smart provide privacy and visually balance the space.

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words: Kate Williams
pictures: Kallan MacLeod

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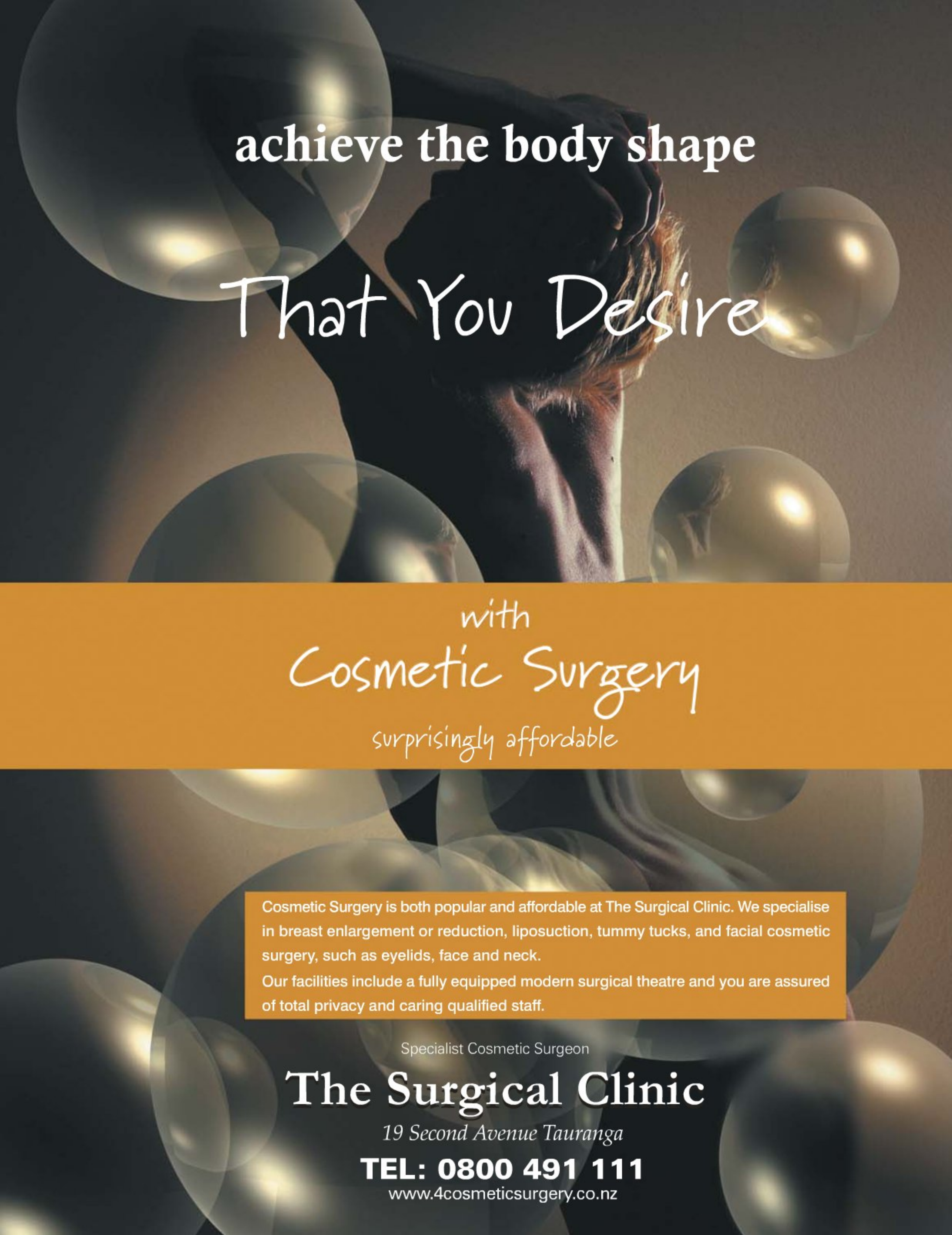
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Art: It used to be so simple. Paint on canvas or paper, sculpture in rock or bronze, a finely carved piece of wood.

However, the past century has put paid to that definition, as artists explore every kind of exciting medium – electronics, light, brick walls, installations – and, that most primitive of canvases, the human body. Body artist Yolanda Bartram cannot get enough of working – painting is only the start – on such a versatile medium.

My model is my muse," she enthuses. "I create characters, and the model can bring the paints alive. You can turn a whole human into something extraordinary."

Currently, her much-loved (and patient) model is Auckland actor Hannah Tasker Poland (recently seen in the televsion show *Rude Awakenings*).

"I love to see the artwork come alive… to have the idea in my mind and then see it actually look as you'd planned."

Body art is a family affair for Yo. She met her husband Julian when he commissioned her to create body paints for a project he was running for GE Free New Zealand. He then became her "best model ever… until Hannah". They were engaged four months later, and have recently moved to Auckland with their baby son and two-year-old daughter.

However, Yo's first mentor was her mother Nicole Hydenrijk, who was one of Holland's leading body artists until the family emigrated to New Zealand seven years ago. Nicole had emerged from a theatre makeup background, picking up the growing trend in Europe to push the art. Yolande trained in fashion design and then fine arts; a small course in air-brush techniques got her hooked on the scope of the body as a medium.

The mother and daughter duo set up their Body FX studio in the heart of Wellington's art scene; teaching students, running events such as the Body Arts Rocks show, and becoming a fixture at fringe and street theatre events.

Photo courtesy of Body FX

Fortunately, there is a living to be made. Corporations love to wow clients at product launches or staff parties with a bevvy of body-painted actors. A particular hit is bodies painted to look like sculptured centrepieces on a table – until the heart-stopping moment when they hand guests a drink. Yolanda has even painted a pair of sky-divers for their matrimonial jump out of a plane.

The boundaries of the body art are constantly stretched by Yolanda, Nicole and their artists. A recent Wellington Waitangi day festival wowed audiences with a giant paint-by-numbers interactive art piece. The Body FX team sketch-outlined a series of panels representing earth, wind, fire and water, and invited the audience to complete the panels using Resene paints throughout the day. Alongside this, an intense body painting session (six artists for more than six hours) created characters to match. The finale was a dance piece where models and backdrop merged into a three-dimensional work.

Top-end body painting crosses the boundary into wearable art: Yolanda has won awards in the World of Wearable Arts for her masks and prosthetics work.

"Body art is one of the biggest growing art forms in the world, Austria is the mecca", she explains.

She has plans to travel there next year to compete and learn from some of the industry greats, as well as competing in Australia. For serious competitions (Yolanda recently won awards in a NZ national competition judged by Richard Taylor of Weta Workshops and Hollywood special effects experts), she spends months developing her concept, creating special prosthetics, masks and head gear to complete the character. Mere clothing painted onto a body this is not. In this case, her entry Phantom's Nemesis was inspired by baroque architecture.

Yolanda and her mother have also transformed celebrities such as Wellington Mayor Kerry Prendergast. They have also donated their time to the Bald Head Project, an ongoing fundraiser for the Cancer Society – they have painted more than 130 famous and not-so-famous heads.

Quiz Yolanda on where she gets her inspiration from, and she pulls out a notebook full of sketches, colour combinations and fantastical creatures. An inspiration board in her office (which also doubles as the graphic design studio for Julian's business) is crammed with photos and treasures. When she runs out of bodies, Yolanda practices on tiny canvases: Quarters of faces with the new shapes, colours. She swears some of her most inspired moments come when she's painting dozens of children's faces at a party or fair.

"They are little pieces of art, each one. You only have such a short space of time, so you can try something out and move on. As long as they're not all Spidermen, I could do it for hours. But butterflies come in thousands of combinations, every one of them different. I just love it". H

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Resene
Lime White

^ green at heart

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jungle hour >

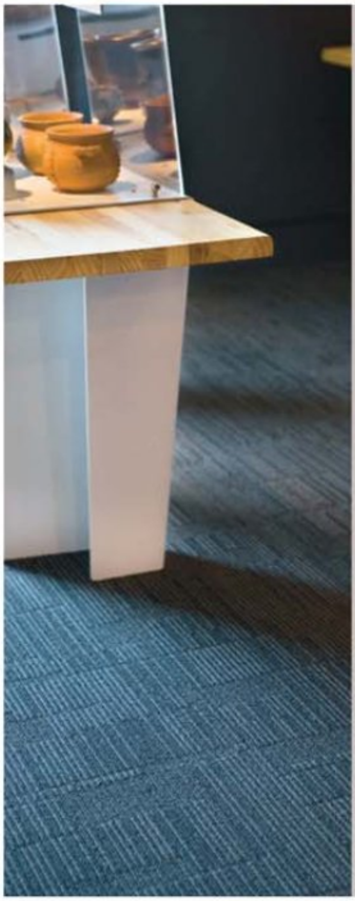
One of the most celebrated 'naïve' painters, Henri Rousseau is best known for his jungle scenes inspired by illustrated books and trips to the Paris botanical gardens. His work reveals a refreshing vision and attention to detail, with the inventive use of colour a hallmark of his unique style.

This use of colour was the inspiration behind Cavalier Bremworth's new carpet. Called Rousseau, it features diverse colourways, including an earthy range, as well as red, blue and green tones. A 100% pure wool, hard-twist cut pile, it's ideal for stairs and heavy-traffic areas in the busiest homes. View the range at www.cavbrem.co.nz.

< must-have sofa

The 'Must' sofa from Longhi's Loveluxe collection isn't just comfortable; it makes an eye-catching living room centerpiece. Handcrafted in Italy and skillfully hand upholstered in leather or fabric, the Must sofa comes in a range of sizes and as a modular design for ultimate flexibility. Longhi furniture is imported from Italy exclusively by Ashton Grove. Visit www.ashtongrove.co.nz.

Resene
Pearl Lusta



< earth first

A specialist in sustainable, design-led flooring systems, InterfaceNZ has announced an environmental first in New Zealand. Its InterfaceFLOR carpet tiles are now climate-neutral, which means they have a net zero impact on the earth, taking into account greenhouse gas emissions over the carpet's entire lifecycle, raw material acquisition, manufacturing, transportation, use, maintenance and disposal. Produced in tiles, the carpets are 100% recyclable and worn sections can easily be replaced. They also have a 15-year guarantee and the lowest volatile organic compound emissions of any carpet in New Zealand.

Resene
Milestone

v child's play

They say necessity is the mother of invention, and when Auckland interior designer Rachel McDermott couldn't find suitable bedroom furniture for her children's rooms, she created her own. Her Darcy and Rosa ranges are sturdy, colourful and full of character – just right for transforming an average kid's room into a special place. And now Rachel has added two new timber bed ranges: The Tyler stained shutter bed (pictured) and the classic Peyton bed with unique stain-and-paint finish. Phone The Junior Room Studio on 09 336 1157 for more details.

Resene
Moroccan Spice

good grooming >

Of course, we all want to get the best price possible when we sell our house, and a little basic attention to a few key areas will give excellent financial returns. Here's a book that will help you do just that. Home Staging in New Zealand by Catherine Smith shows you how to groom your house for sale. It contains step-by-step checklists, practical tips and shortcuts if you're on a tight timeframe. Plus there are extensive notes on everything from de-cluttering spaces and cosmetic makeovers to staging the garden and making beds properly. Home Staging also offers a peek into the behind-the-scenes workings of real estate agents, marketers and home-grooming experts.

Published by Renaissance Publishing and available from all good book shops.

∧ shine on

Drawing inspiration from ancient building materials, Rockcote Systems' new Milano range of interior finishes is designed and made in Italy, using premium Italian marble and lime. Hand-plastered interior finishes, such as this Milano MarbleStone fireplace in Resene Quarter Masala, feature a high polish and exceptional visual depth. A penetrating wax applied to the finish offers scuff and water resistance, and makes cleaning easy.

Call for 0800 50 70 40 or fill in the request form at www.rockcote.co.nz/milano to receive the latest Milano brochure and samples of the finishes.

Resene Epiphany

∨ true sophisticate

Not only does it feature the latest technology, but Sharp's new Piano Finish Aquos LCD TV boasts a designer look, taking its inspiration from the shiny black keys of a grand piano. The super-fast pixel response time ensures brilliant picture quality and vibrant colours – even when viewed from extreme wide angles. The Piano Finish Aquos can easily connect to Xbox, Blue-ray and PS3 devices, and is compatible with a wide range of home theatre control systems, making it one of the most user-friendly and aesthetically pleasing LCDs on the market. Choose from three screen sizes from 32" to 42", wall- or stand-mounted. Available from Harvey Norman stores and other leading retailers nationwide.

Resene Cut Glass

∧ look up

Dress up a plain ceiling with a more modern, dramatic look. One of a range of new cornice profiles from Gib, GIB-Cove® Legato creates a streamlined ceiling effect that's perfect for contemporary homes and apartments. Its geometric lines and recessed shadows help visually enlarge a room and enhance a minimalist décor. GIB-Cove comes in 3.6m lengths, and is quick and simple to fix, and easy to paint. Learn more at www.gib.co.nz/accessories.

< water smart

If you're building or renovating your bathroom and want to combat the water price hikes, a smart-flushing, water-efficient loo might be just the thing. Designed to help reduce water use in drought-stricken Australia, Caroma's Smartflush toilet suites use just 4.5 litres of water for a full flush versus the old-style single-flush cisterns at around 11 litres, while most existing dual-flush toilets use at least 6 litres. That could save the average household around 35,000 litres of water a year. For more details, visit www.smartflush.com.au.

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take your cue >

The decorating cues for 2008 can be seen in the new Resene The Range 2008 palette. It features a heady blend of colour options inspired by elements of fashion, nature, the economy and global events. Among them, a host of warm earth tones is joined by rich burgundies and browns, honey yellows and citrus greens, all lightly cooled with contemporised blues and greens.

See the brochure Paint colour cues for 2008 brochure for more detail or visit www.resene.co.nz or www.resene.com.au. The Range 2008 is available from Resene ColorShops and Resellers nationwide. The Range hues are also available in your favourite colour tools, including A4 drawdowns, self-adhesives and testpots, and colour pencil and RGB formulations are available online.

v dye job

Stained carpet in an outdated shade ruins your whole décor, so most of us resort to ripping it up and replacing it. However, recycling your existing carpet is a cheaper, more sustainable option. Carpet waste in landfills can take around 250,000 years to completely break down, and reusing your existing carpet can save you up to 80% of full replacement costs. Carpet Colourists clean, sanitise and recolour faded, discoloured or marked carpet, using non-toxic natural vegetable-based dyes – and you can choose your shade from any Resene colour chart. For a free quote call 0800 732 6568 or visit www.carpetcolourists.co.nz.

before

after

^ sleep tight

When you consider that we spend a third of our lives asleep, what we're actually sleeping on becomes pretty important. The new Twilight Collection from DreamMaker™ includes a selection of pillows, duvets and underbankets made from TENCEL®. This 100% biodegradable material, comprised of entirely natural raw fibres, has a luxurious silky feel and lets you enjoy a comfortable, uninterrupted night's sleep by drawing away water vapour and helping regulate body temperature. Visit www.autex.co.nz/dreammaker/ for a list of stockists.

Resene
Wot Eva

^ design your future

If you enjoy *Habitat*, you're probably passionate about interior design. Here's the chance to acquire specialised knowledge and career-oriented skills. The Interior Design Institute is offering New Zealand's first and only online course in interior design. Based on a successful international programme, it's been specifically tailored to the New Zealand design industry, featuring 12 modules and interactive online assignments. Enjoy the flexibility of being able to study in your own time, with assessment and feedback from your personal professional tutor. For details, email info@idinz.co.nz or visit www.idinz.co.nz.

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look at heat contr

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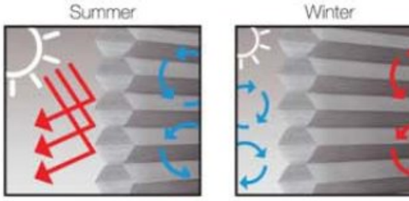

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^ on the edge

Gardens sprawling into lawn areas look untidy and badly maintained. But here's an attractive and easy way to solve the problem. The Snap-it landscape edge and border system is an edging mould that guides concrete and mortar to create an attractive solid border around gardens and plantings. The four-step place-and-pour system allows for bends, curves, straights and corners to be built into the edging design. And the finished edging can even be roller stamped to replicate bricks prior to staining with Snap-it Exterior Concrete Stain, which is produced by Resene in a choice of four shades.

Available from Bunnings or see www.snap-it.co.nz for stockists.

Resene
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highly recommended >

The new Resene Recommended Paint Systems brochure includes easy- to-follow surface preparation information combined with useful tables explaining what paint systems to use where and the appropriate accessories to get a professional finish. From hallways and bedrooms to decks and roofs, this brochure has residential painting covered.

Available from Resene ColorShops or the Resene website, it's a great place to start when you're looking for the right paint for your decorating project.

Resene
Whizz Bang

Resene Moonbeam

v soft metals

Complement your stainless or metallic appliances with these Graphite Cortica Cork Tiles from Cork Concepts. They are manufactured with an infusion of Resene Blast Grey 2 from the Resene Metallics and special effects range. While giving your floor a metallic look, the cork provides a warm, comfortable surface. And, if you drop a plate on this floor, there's a good chance it will survive the fall. See www.corkconcepts.com for details.

v to the last drop

A new water-saving concept is taking off with environmentally conscious New Zealanders. New Water's Rain Reviva bladder tanks are flexible enough to fit under a house or deck, and can capture water from the entire surface area of the roof, collecting up to 300 per cent more water than a standard tank system. This innovative Australian product lets you harness rainwater to use for activities such as washing the car, watering the garden, flushing the toilet or operating the washing machine. The Rain Reviva system diverts the rainwater from each downpipe into the bladders, where a pump system allows it to be reticulated to a range of devices such as the garden hose, sprinkler systems, and the dishwasher. For more information, call 0800 4 NEWWATER or visit www.newwater.co.nz.

Take a good look at privacy contro

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Also available at: Wade House, 258 Thorndon Quay, Wellington | Dreamwool Beds, 105 Blenheim Road, Christchurch

^ bathroom beautiful

Athena's latest bathroomware brochure is out and it highlights a selection of exciting new and updated products. Among these (pictured) are the new Soul freestanding bath, with its classic lines and centrally located waste; the contemporary Wave N Shape vanity in dark oak, from the ever-popular Wave Range of vanities; and the Allora round shower, which features a moulded one-piece curved wall lining with an in-built storage recess and chrome flannel rail. Visit www.athena.co.nz for details.

^ breath of fresh air

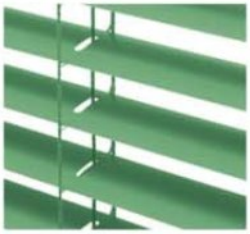
Paint fumes can cause dizziness, headaches, nausea, respiratory complaints and allergic reactions, and are particularly bad for children. Today just 8% of the decorative paint sold by Resene is solventborne, compared to 20% for other major paint companies. Environmental Choice-approved Resene waterborne products, such as Resene Enamacryl, Resene Lustacryl and Resene SpaceCote waterborne enamels, have replaced solventborne paints.

To celebrate 10 years of Resene Zylone Sheen being an Environmental Choice-approved finish, Resene has developed Resene Zylone Sheen VOC Free. It combines the popular low sheen of Resene Zylone Sheen without the unwanted organic compounds (VOCs).

Seee Make a Sustainable Choice brochure for information about Resene's fresh-thinking focus and its commitment to minimise the environmental effects of decorating.

Resene Altitude

Take a hard look at light control



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words: Deirdre Coleman

let the sun shine

Drawing their inspiration from local wineries and historical buildings, and using raw materials on their property, Central Otago residents Shona and Danny Rae have created a home that works in harmony with the natural environment.

Around five years ago, the Raes began building their first home; a single-level, rammed-earth house in Bannockburn, just south of Cromwell. An historical gold-mining district, where sluicing has left its mark on the land, the Cromwell/Bannockburn area is also known as 'the fruit bowl of the south' for its abundance of orchards and vineyards.

Sitting on a small knoll, elevated off the valley floor, the house is oriented to make the most of the climate, and the stunning views of Lake Dunstan and the surrounding mountain ranges.

"As farmers, we're used to having a lot of space around us, so we just loved the outlook," says Shona. "A lot of people comment on the relaxed feel of the house, and that's exactly what we were trying to create."

Having admired the architecture of local vineyards, such as the Springvale Estate in Alexandra – one of the first rammed-earth wineries in the area – Shona and Danny were keen to replicate this look and construction. Dunedin-based architectural designer Richard Wilden was commissioned to help them transform their ideas into a comfortable, sun-filled family home, bringing his experience in rammed-earth construction and vernacular architecture to the project.

Taking his cues from the local historical architecture – with its pitched roofs, lean-tos and earth construction – Richard worked with the Raes to develop the design. It incorporates a centrally located kitchen and dining room, and a living area with a coved ceiling finished in tongue-and-groove macrocarpa. On one side of the living spaces is a guest wing and an office, with the master suite at the other end of the house.

When it came to sourcing the primary material for their house, the Raes didn't have to look far. They dug the earth directly from their own property. With rammed-earth construction, cement is used to stabilise the earth and the walls cure over time, taking about two years to dry out. The sustainable macrocarpa timber used for framing and finishing was also sourced locally around Tapanui, from old wind belts. As well as macrocarpa ceilings, the house has deep macrocarpa reveals and windowsills that conceal the aluminium framing.

Resene Honeymoon

Resene Starbell

The Raes were always keen to incorporate elements of passive solar heating and cooling into their home, which worked well with the earth construction. A key design feature is the large window in the living area, which faces directly north and captures all-day sun. Inside, large-format, ceramic floor tiles absorb the heat, releasing it through the house as the temperature outside drops.

However, sun models showed that the intense summer sun would heat the room to extremes. Therefore, an additional overhang above the window and a series of louvres halfway down help shade the interior of the house.

Based on heat-loss calculations, Richard incorporated a number of insulating features into the design and construction. For example, the amount of insulation in the home is well above Building Code requirements and, as you'd expect in Central Otago, the windows are all double-glazed.

"Earth isn't a great insulator, but with the external walls being 450mm thick, it performs reasonably well," he says.

Many of the interior walls are made from concrete block, which has the same thermal value as rammed earth.

"Rammed earth is a very technical way to build a house. While the materials are relatively inexpensive, there's a lot of labour involved, and the detailing and fixing is very complicated. We got a contractor from Hawea Flat who was experienced in this type of construction and did the great job."

While the site and context were big influencing factors in the design of the Raes' house, there was another vital consideration. Early on in the planning process, it became clear that their wonderful location would pose a major practical challenge.

Many of the interior walls are made from concrete block, which has the same thermal value as rammed earth.

"It's a rural subdivision and the local power authority was going to charge us a fortune – around $30,000 – to get connected to the power supply," says Shona.

Reduce heat buildup on exterior surfaces with Resene Cool Colour technology; ideal for anything from roofs to walls. Resene Cool Colours are designed to reflect the sun's energy, keeping the substrate, paint and interior cooler.

Even though, in the end, it probably cost them around that amount to go it alone, Shona and Danny decided to make their own power.

"We like to do things a little differently," says Shona. 'And there was also the principle, too."

Sheltered from coastal conditions by high mountain ranges, Central Otago enjoys a unique climate, similar to that of the Mediterranean, with hot, sunny summers, cold, snowy winters and minimal rainfall. And so the Raes drew on this abundance of sunshine and harnessed the wind coming in off the lake.

In order for the 16 roof-mounted solar-powered panels to produce the maximum amount of heat, they had to be pitched at 45 degrees. They feed through to a 16-battery converting from DC to 240V AC for use in the house. An additional eight-panel loop closed solar water heating system is used to heat water for showers, and is supplemented by a coal range, via a wet-back, connected to the hot water cylinder.

"You do have to keep an eye on the length of showers and the amount of water people are using," says Shona. "Anything that heats uses a lot of power, so we cook on a gas range and our radiators run off the hot-water cylinder. We do have the odd power cut, but it's never for long."

At the end of 2006, Shona and Danny put in a wind generator similar to those used on ocean-going boats. A diesel generator also provides backup in the middle of winter. All the mechanical systems required to keep the house running are housed in a central control room behind the range in the kitchen.

"Obviously, we're very aware of power consumption. We always turn the appliances right off – having them on standby uses about 10% of your power," says Shona. 'We had to import our fridge and freezer from Denmark, because they were much more energy-efficient than anything we could find here."

While the Raes' home might be powered by the sun and wind, its décor is also inspired by nature, thanks to the input of interior designer Jocelyn Morrison from Creation Design Studio in Queenstown. She devised a

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The Real Fires Through Wall fireplace is a revolutionary concept that means your fire can be enjoyed in two rooms simultaneously, or from the exterior to the interior of your home.

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colour scheme based on the autumnal shades of Central Otago, and chose finishes and furnishings to complement the natural texture of the rammed earth. Decorating a house of this kind posed some challenges, though.

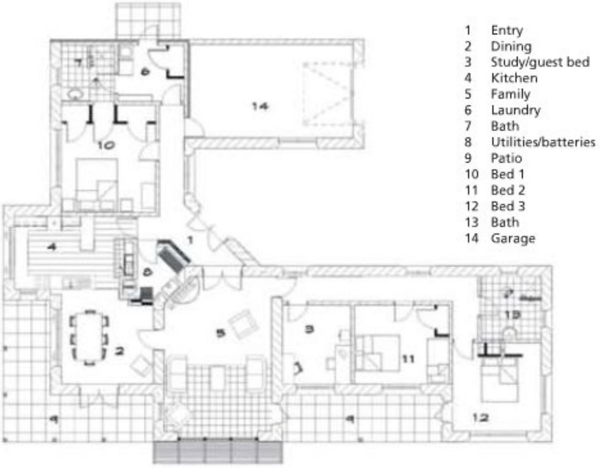
"You're fairly limited with the design, because of the structure," says Jocelyn. "We used pull-cords on the lights in the bedrooms, so we didn't need to put as many switches in the walls. Hanging art on rammed-earth walls is a major exercise, so you have to be very certain about what you want to go where."

And because the rammed earth cannot be painted, colour needs to be incorporated into other elements. For example, the floors are a nature-inspired combination of large-format brick-red ceramic tiles, timber and pale-green carpet. And based on an earth sample from the property, Resene in Alexandra mixed a special paint colour, named Resene Joc Mud, for Jocelyn. Used on the plastered-concrete internal walls, its browny/gold tones match the rammed earth walls.

"With so many of these earthy browns in the timber and walls, I wanted to get some colour and warmth into the scheme," says Jocelyn.

Internal plastered feature walls sport strong colours such as Resene Jazz, used behind the wetback, and offset by kitchen cabinetry in Resene Tussock. And a feature wall in the master bedroom is painted in Resene Kenyan Copper.

"I'm a bit of a bold-colour person," says Shona. "The Central Otago winters are quite long, so it's nice to have some warm colours around you." H



Architect/Designer: Richard Wilden

Interior designer: Jocelyn Morrison from Creation Design Studio

Gas range: Westinghouse

Resene Jazz

Builder: "Moggy" from O'Callaghan and Walker Builders

Tiling: Antica Marrow, laid by Brent Smithies from Instyle Tiles

Resene Tussock

Flooring: Coburn Flooring

Plastering: Reid Plasters Cromwell Painting Kevin Waite

Wind generator: Power Options

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Resene Midwinter Mist

Get the interior look with Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen tinted to Resene Jazz, Resene Tussock, Resene Kenyan Copper and Resene Soul.

Resene Escapade

Resene Kenyan Copper

on the following pages, find two alternative style suggestions

^ Strong shades and funky forms create a whole new feel.

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Resene Warhol

Resene Jalapeno

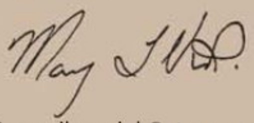
Resene Urbane

Resene Caffeine

Mary Vink

from Mary Vink Interior Design suggests this alternative solution:

A contemporary style is created through a modern palette of red, white and black. These colours are softened by warm neutrals, including dark brown and off-white, with Resene Urbane and the bolder Resene Caffeine used on the walls. A focal point of the design is the deep-red two-and-a-half-seater sofa, grouped with a dark-oak coffee table. The highly textured carpet adds visual interest and the removal of the mantelpiece lends a modern feel. Accessories are kept to a minimum, with a large red glass vase on the coffee table and cushions on the sofa. The scheme is designed to suit the country location and to complement the existing artwork.



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^ Colour and texture are used to soften the room.

Resene
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>

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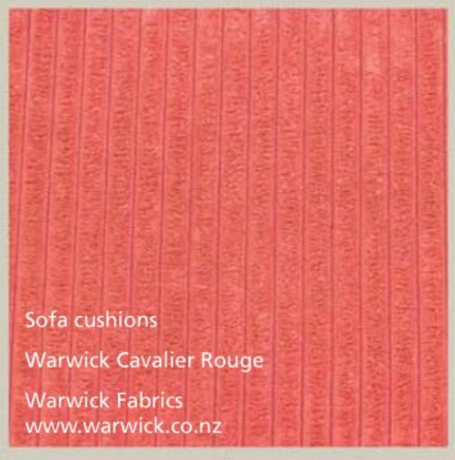

Sofa cushions

Warwick Cavalier Rouge

Warwick Fabrics
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Jular armchair with Warwick Fabrics Viva Red Earth squabs

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Montrose pendant 9 light

Lighthouse
www.lighthouselighting.co.nz

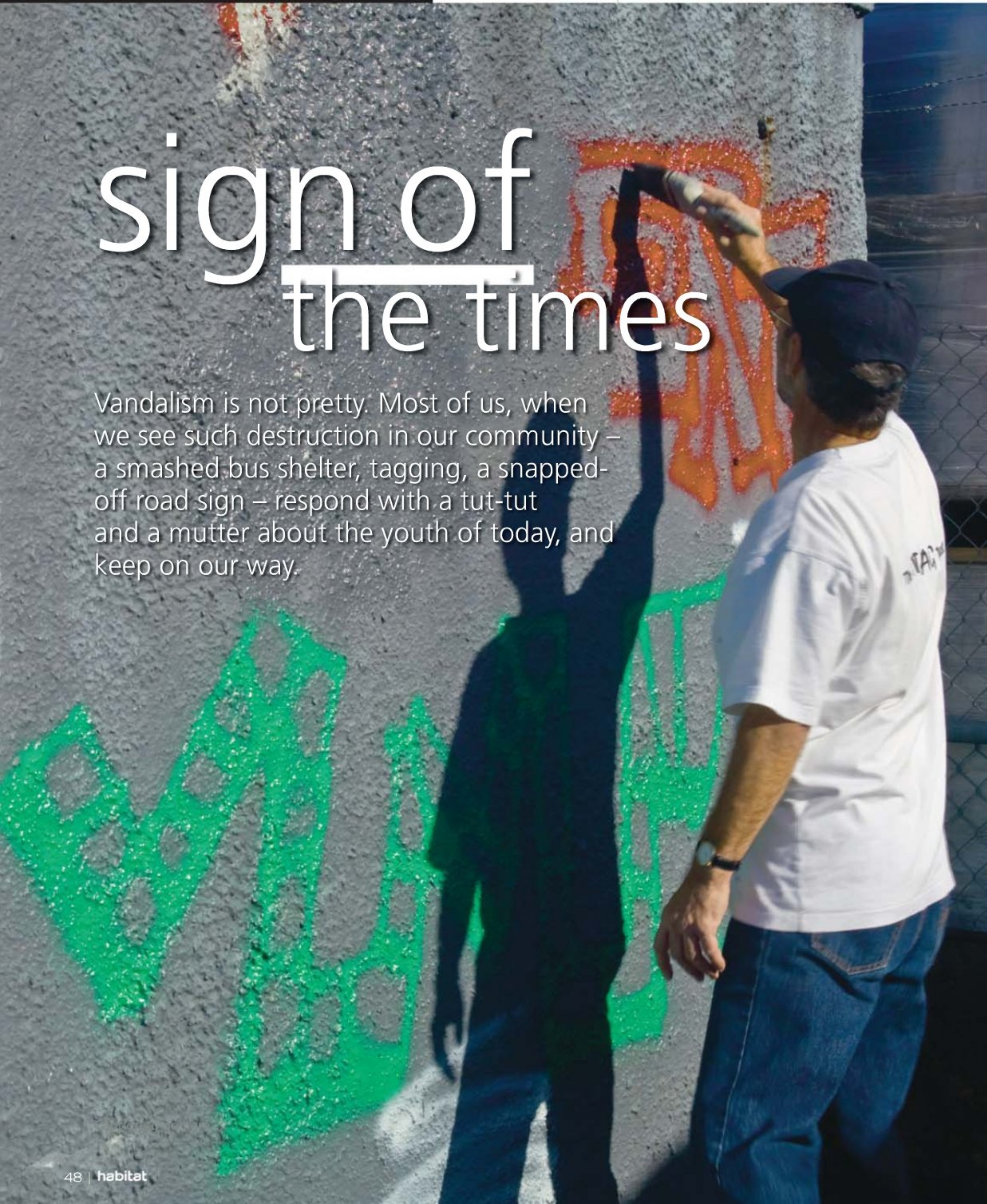
Terry Lobb

from Terry Lobb Colour and Design suggests this alternative scheme:

The gutsy masculine feel of this room has been softened and modernised through the selection of furniture, fabrics and accessories. A clean-lined four-seater sofa, covered in a striped fabric gives visual strength and texture, but is comfortable and soft to the touch – especially with its feather-filled cushions. A heavy water hyacinth armchair, with a dark finish and a natural-toned, modern fabric on the cushions, continues the casual masculine look. The fine-lined floor lamp, with its natural-weave lampshade, suits the simplicity of the room, while a large gilt mirror above the mantel provides a touch of formality. The natural textures and materials are complemented by an earthy colour scheme featuring Resene Perfect Taupe and Resene Wanderlust.

mobile 027 602 3298, email terry@terrylobb.com, website www.terrylobb.com

words: Kate Williams
pictures: Kallan MacLeod



sign of the times

Vandalism is not pretty. Most of us, when we see such destruction in our community – a smashed bus shelter, tagging, a snapped-off road sign – respond with a tut-tut and a mutter about the youth of today, and keep on our way.

Fortunately for the people of Auckland's North Shore, there is one man who didn't just tut and drive on. John Crews, already active in his community, was so annoyed at the major problems with graffiti in Sunnynook that he rounded up a group of volunteers and – with the help of the local community constable – set about cleaning up his neighbourhood. Twelve years later, the UnTag Trust – the organisation he founded in 1995 – has grown to support a paid staff member and a fully equipped truck to clean up large chunks of the North Shore (two other organisations cover single suburbs in the area).

As with many community organisations, funding was hand-to-mouth in the beginning. Fortunately, John could tap into extensive networks built up over 30 years as a volunteer community patroller. Having worked closely with the community constable, he knew about Blue Light discos; police-run events for young people that generate income for local projects. Such funds helped buy paint, brushes and equipment. In the beginning, teams of four people a week from the North Harbour Rotary Club turned up each Saturday to supervise the clean-up, but since 1998, the Trust has been able to pay staff for 20 hours a week.

UnTag provides a double solution for the community. Young offenders are referred by Police Youth Aid, CYFS or the community constable to work on the tagging clean-up as part of their sentencing or rehabilitation. John suspects that for these young people (from all parts of the social spectrum, he is quick to point out), working side-by-side with an interested grown-up may be the first time some of them have experienced a listening ear.

"We are not counsellors; we are just ordinary people", he explains. "We don't tell them what to do, we let them do the talking. Very often, the more they talk, the more they find their own answers."

The programme is backed by the North Shore City Council, although formal funding only started in 2005. It cleans up graffiti on residences, public buildings and businesses. Tagging is referred to the clean-up hotline via complaints to the council Action-Line, by the community constable, or through direct calls to the UnTag hotline.

John has learned that careful recording and monitoring is essential to the success of his service: Every piece of graffiti is photographed and recorded before it is removed. Information and photos are entered into a council-run database called Tracker, and shared around the city. This data is used to identify persistent tagging re-offenders – taggers like to move around the city and tag in each other's territories. UnTag can have anything between 160 and 570 tags a week to deal with: In 2006 the team tackled more than 4300 tags, using between 60 and 100 litres of paint a month.

Two years ago, as Resene was beginning its PaintWise programme, John and other local groups were offered the recycled paint free for their work. The PaintWise truck splits open old cans or buckets of waterborne paint,

Resene Groovy

Resene Half Sea Fog

which results in a good, serviceable grey that carries the in-house monicker EchoPaint, perfect for painting out tags on concrete – tunnels and skate bowls are particular favourites with taggers. In addition, the Trust uses low-cost mistints in a set of key colours, but clients are made aware that the clean-up is not a painting and decorating service.

John wryly notes that, while the service is free, it is the hard-up little old ladies who are more likely to make a donation than the large business customers! Support from Forrest Hill Motors and Autoquest means that the Trust was able to purchase a dedicated paint truck, and keeps it well serviced and on the road.

"There are new taggers coming out on a weekly basis," says John. "Most of them are around 14 to 18 years old. The thing is, they start off tagging, but then progress to other petty, then not-so-petty crimes".

John suggests citizens interested in de-tagging their own neighbourhood should first make contact with their local council or community constable. Sound record-keeping is essential, both to monitor the extent of the problem and to support applications for funding. As with many organisations, a core of dedicated volunteers needs to be found to source paint and supplies, manage rosters and clean up duties and… always… raise money. H

do you need free paint for your community organisation?

Resene donates good-condition paint and grey waterborne paint collected through the Resene PaintWise service to not-for-profit organisations and schools. If your community group is interested in receiving free paint, complete Resene's online registration form at www.resene.co.nz/paintwise.htm. All paints are waterborne, and colours and sheens will vary, so recipients must be prepared to accept it on an 'as is' basis. It will all be marked and labelled. Resene will contact successful applicants as paint becomes available.

keep the nasties away

To limit the possibility of your property being vandalised by tagging:

> Remove tags as soon as they appear – one tag attracts more.

> If possible, photograph the tags and report them to your local police station or council.

> Choose hedging or metal fencing instead of block, plaster or timber around your property boundary.

> Install security nightlights to illuminate possible tagging sites.

> If your streetfront boundary does comprise an unbroken surface that will be appealing to taggers, coat it with an anti-graffiti surface such as Resene Uracryl. Once cured you will be able to quickly wash away any graffiti using Resene Graffiti Remover without damaging the paint finish.

Is your garage or shed cluttered with old unwanted paint and paint containers?

Get with the Resene PaintWise programme and let Resene take care of them for you.

Bring unwanted paint and paint containers into your local Resene ColorShop and let us recycle or dispose of them responsibly.

Resene will offer good quality paint to community groups for reuse, recycle packaging materials that are recyclable and dispose of the rest for you.

Selected Resene ColorShops have been designated as Resene PaintWise Collection Centres. Drop off your unwanted paint and paint containers to any of these designated Resene ColorShops at any time during their opening hours.

You are welcome to bring back paint and paint packaging no matter what brand. Resene branded paint and paint containers are free to return. A small charge applies to non-Resene branded product to help offset the costs of the PaintWise programme ($1 per 4L can or smaller, $2.50 per 10L pail).

The **Resene PaintWise programme** is funded by contributions from Resene, a small levy of 15 cents on retail paint purchases and a levy on all trade returns. For more information, and a full list of PaintWise collection centres, visit www.resene.co.nz/paintwise.htm or ask your local Resene ColorShop staff.

Resene PaintWise collection centres:

(North Island): Albany, Fielding, Hamilton, Hastings, Henderson, Kapiti, Kilbirnie, Levin, Lower Hutt, Manukau, Masterton, Mt Eden, Mt Roskill, Naenae, Napier, New Lynn, Newmarket, Onehunga, Orewa, Palmerston North, Panmure, Porirua, Pukekohe, Takanini, Tauranga, Te Rapa, Thorndon, Upper Hutt, Wairau Park, Wanganui.

(South Island): Addington, Ashburton, Blenheim, Christchurch, Dunedin, Ferrymead, Invercargill, Nelson, New Brighton, Northwood, Oamaru, Shirley, Timaru, Tower Junction.

When dropping off paint and paint containers:

- Ensure paint is in its original correctly labelled container.
- Ensure containers are well sealed and will not leak.
- Leave small amounts of waterborne paint in its container, put out of reach of children and leave the lid off for the paint to dry then bring it in to one of the Resene ColorShops shown above.

We cannot accept:

- Paint thinners, solvents, aerosols or any other materials - dispose of these at a HazMobile collection. See www.hazmobile.govt.nz for details or contact your local council.
- Due to safety requirements, paint and paint containers will only be accepted at these Resene ColorShops during normal store hours. Sorry, paint and packaging returns cannot be accepted by any other stores.

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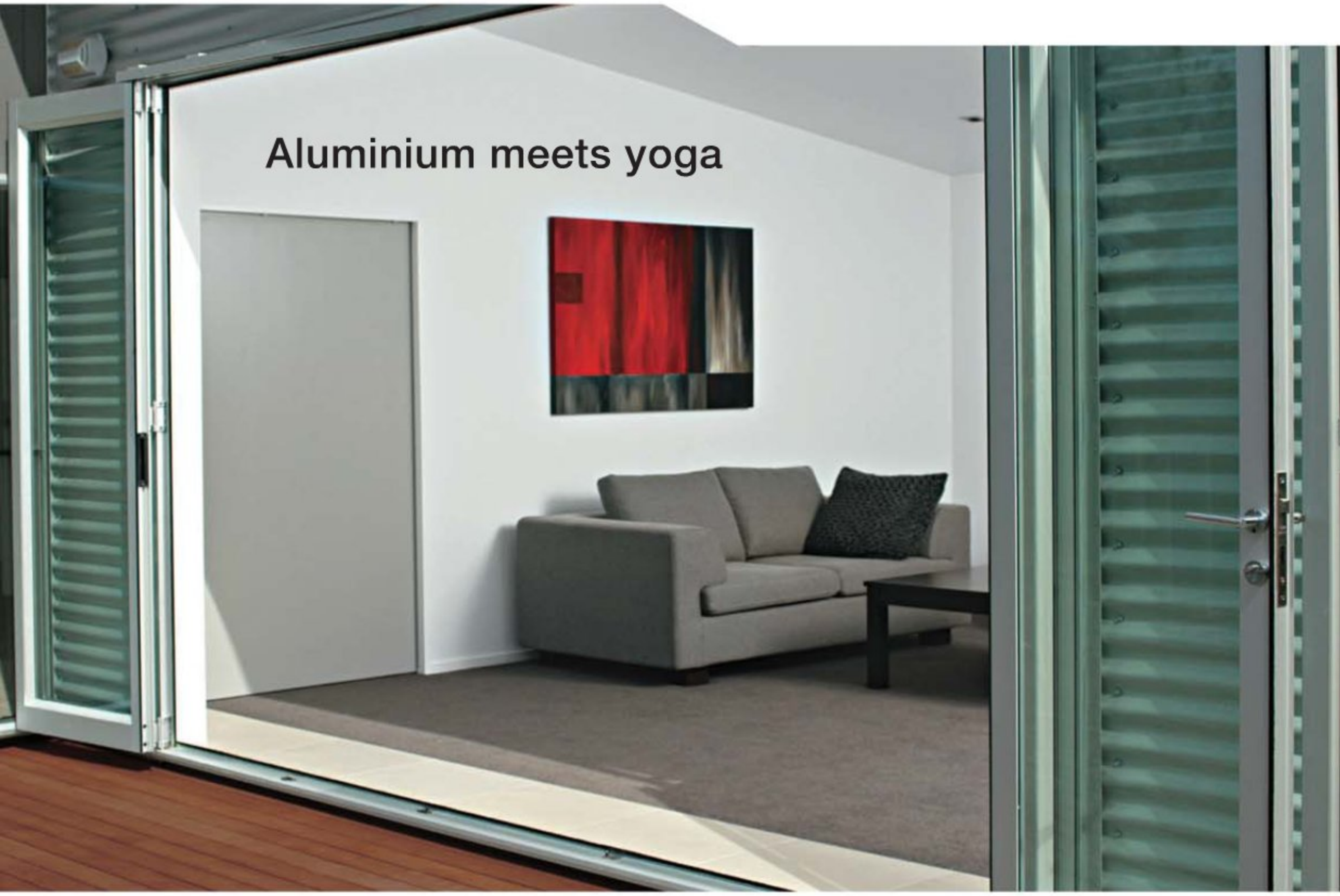

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The innovative design of the Foldback® Bifold has taken the features and benefits of traditional Bifold doors and created a unique new product that will enhance your lifestyle.

The skewed track located at the top of the door or window allows the panels to open 180º and rest against the building line when fully open. When open, all obstacles are removed from walkways and decks, and create an uninterrupted indoor/outdoor flow capturing all the benefits of the outdoor area and view. The flat surfaced sill is also a feature, reducing cleaning and maintenance, and adds smooth aesthetics to your home.

For your nearest Fletcher Aluminium fabricator contact **0800 55 11 00** or visit **www.fletcheraluminium.co.nz**

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words: Deirdre Coleman
pictures: Kallan MacLeod

mucking around in boats

Getting away to a beach-house or lakeside bach is a great way to recharge your batteries, spend time with family and have fun with friends.

And that's exactly what the Auckland-based Richards family has been doing for the past five-odd years; enjoying holidays and weekends at their Lake Rotoiti bach, near Rotorua in the central North Island. With three bedrooms on the upper level and a bunkroom downstairs, there's enough room to sleep 12. And over the New Year's holiday, especially, it's a full house.

When they bought the 1940s house in 2001, they enthusiastically launched straight into renovating, with the help of Rotorua-based designer Darryl Church.

"The house had been owned by the same family for many decades, and over that time it had been added to and lifted, with a block base put underneath it," says Pip Richards. "We didn't want to change the footprint at all, just update the interior."

A vital part of the renovations involved upgrading the kitchen to improve layout and design, and to create room for new internal stair access to the lower level. When it came to their design brief, Pip says they really only had one key requirement for the kitchen.

"It was very small, with a large cupboard that took up a lot of space. We told Darryl we wanted to open up the kitchen and living area completely, and incorporate a breakfast bar, to create a happy, party feel where everyone could get involved," says Pip. "When you're on holiday, people like to help out and feel part of what's going on."

Another theme that came through in their discussions with Darryl was the Richards' love of boats and all things associated with the water. So, with the lake edge only

Avoid fly spots on ceilings with Resene SpaceCote Flat Fly Deterrent. Designed to discourage flies from landing on the painted surface, it reduces the appearance of unwanted fly spots.

Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen Kitchen & Bathroom combines anti-bacterial silver protection and MoulDefender mould inhibitor, perfect for minimising unwanted nasties in kitchens, bathrooms and laundries.

15m from the front of the house, he worked to add a subtle nautical flavour to the design.

The kitchen opens out onto a large deck that wraps around the open-plan living area and looks straight out over the lake. Instead of the blue and white colour scheme typically associated with a boating theme, the room features a playful, upbeat colour palette. Melteca cabinetry in Snapdragon, a bold purple shade, is offset by an L-shaped return painted in Resene Wasabi. This bright green wall runs around the outer edge of the kitchen and across to the front door.

However, clever little details such as the flat stainless steel catches on the cabinets and drawers are reminiscent of those found on boats. As well as enhancing the nautical theme, they give the cabinetry a clean, flush look. A simple ceiling of grooved plywood laid in a battened grid alludes to the timber construction of a boat hull.

"Rather than install a full timber sarked ceiling, we went for the eco-friendly option of using plywood," says Darryl.

In what was a bit of a gamble, the Richards lifted up the existing carpet and linoleum to reveal the original box pine floor underneath. Fortunately, this was in good condition, so a coat of stain and a urethane finish were all that was needed to bring out the warm orange tones of the wood and make the space much more practical.

Other timber elements complement the floor and enhance the boaty approach. A rectangular wooden banister supported by round stainless legs creates a simple upstand around the edge of the main benchtop. At the back of the kitchen, below the microwave, a wooden roll-down door conceals small appliances, to keep the benchtop free of clutter.

Rather than cupboards, Pip requested that the kitchen cabinetry incorporate "lots of drawers", for easy access to the contents.

To maximise space, Darryl converted an otherwise inaccessible area at the end of the breakfast bar into usable storage. Accented with a timber frame and frosted-glass door, to complement the timber front door with its glazed 'porthole', this rectangular cupboard is designed to store wine glasses and a bottle or two of something nice for afternoon drinks.

The front of the breakfast bar is finished in corrugated COLORSTEEL painted in Resene Putty. As well as being practical and hard-wearing, Pip says it links the space with the exterior of the house, which features a large panel of corrugated steel running from the outside of the deck down to the ground.

All in all, the Richards are thrilled with their lakeside holiday home. And the constant stream of family and friends that join them there are obviously just as happy. H

Designer: Darryl Church of Darryl Church Architecture

Main contractor: CG Collins

Joiner: Pat Humphrey Joinery

Resene Putty

Cabinets: Melteca

Benchtops: Trezzini and stainless steel

Servery front: Corrugated COLORSTEEL

Resene High Five

Oven, hob, refrigerator and DishDrawer: Fisher & Paykel

Ventilation: Robinhood

Blinds: Window Treatments

Resene Napa

Lighting: Aesthetics

Get the interior look with Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen tinted to Resene Napa and Resene Wasabi.

Resene Wasabi

Flooring: Original box pine, stained and urethaned

Get the stained look with Resene Waterborne Colorwood and Resene Aquaclear.

Resene Mexican Wave

Resene Wicked

Smeg caters to all tastes

The way we like to cook and prepare meals is a very individual thing. Whether you're comparing a group of cordon bleu chefs or a handful of average 'throw together an evening meal' cooks, you'll find an array of different cooking styles and preferences.

That's why leading Italian appliance manufacturer Smeg has created a selection of 16 freestanding ovens in a range of sizes, and with a choice of gas, induction or ceramic cook tops. There's literally something to please everyone, to suit every style of cooking, and to fit any sized kitchen and budget.

The Smeg freestanding oven range comes in 60cm, 90cm, 120cm and 150cm wide models. All are 900mm high (with the option of lifting them higher if required) and come in a choice of good-looking stainless steel or anthracite finishes.

At the more compact end of the scale is the SNZ60EVX Smeg 60cm stainless steel freestanding oven. Ideal for smaller kitchens and those with more straightforward cooking requirements, it combines a fan-forced 50-litre capacity oven with a four-burner automatic-ignition gas cook top. With its single-piece hob surface, enameled trivets, splash guard and removable oven door, clean-up is quick and simple.

The Smeg 90cm freestanding appliance offerings include a spacious electric oven, combined with a choice of induction, ceramic or gas cook tops, each offering its own specific features and benefits. For example, the SA9066AS in anthracite provides fan-forced cooking, conventional bake, and fan grill functions, complemented by a six-burner gas cook top. What makes the SA9066 one of New Zealand's most popular freestanders is the fact that it has all of these features as well as twin-fan cooking technology. Twin-fan cooking enables the oven to heat up much faster than traditional ovens and offers more even cooking.

If speed, energy efficiency and safety are priorities, the CS19ID Smeg freestanding oven with induction top will satisfy your needs. Consuming up to 30% less energy than standard cooking methods and heating up to 48% faster than ceramic hobs, induction cooking offers exceptional control, allowing you switch from boiling to simmering almost instantly. With no direct heat, the cooking surface never gets hot, so spilled liquids can be wiped up immediately. This model also features a fully functioned 85-litre oven with a removable, safe-to-touch triple-glazed glass door.

Smeg's 90cm-wide freestanding oven range also comes with a ceramic cook top with five elements, and offers great value for money.

For those who frequently entertain, or just love cooking and are looking for an appliance that has it all, Smeg offers its 120cm and 150cm hand-built freestanding models. There are three different 120cm-wide cookers and an impressive 150cm-wide one. All have a main and auxiliary oven, so you can cook several dishes as once – a must for dinner parties. The A3A 120cm freestanding cooker comes with a selection of accessories, including a wok stand, rotisserie kit and Teflon oven tray, with an optional teppanyaki plate also available.

And the queen of them all is the A5-5 150cm freestanding oven with eight gas burners, including a wok burner and semi-rapid burner, a rapid burner and a fish burner. This impressive appliance also offers a pizza function and can cater for all culinary requirements, providing restaurant-style facilities for residential settings.

As well as matching your specific cooking needs, Smeg freestanding ovens and cookers are a great way to create a visual focal point in your kitchen. Their styling suits both contemporary designs and renovations. Whether you have freestanding cabinetry or a fully fitted kitchen, a Smeg freestanding oven will slip seamlessly into your space.

Smeg is available from Kitchen Things, G2 and Betta Electrical stores. For further information, please visit **www.smeg.co.nz.** H

words: Anya Kussler
illustrations: Dean Proudfoot

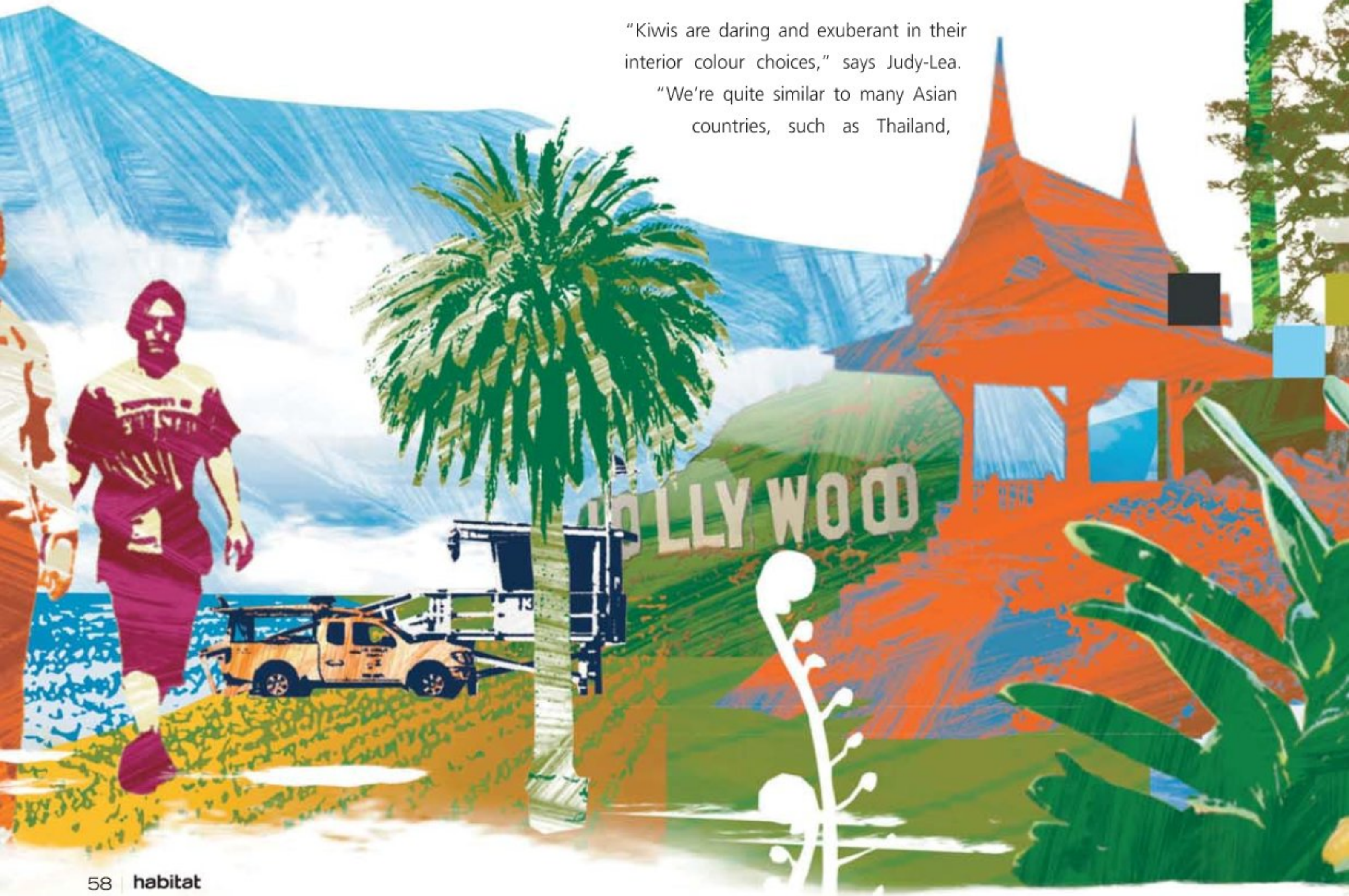
nikau, nikau on the wall

Do our natural surroundings influence the shades and hues we choose to decorate our homes? Anya Kussler finds out which colours tickle our fancy – and why.

Ever wondered whether painting your bathroom turquoise blue had anything to do with the fact that you're living in a country surrounded by water? Or whether you chose green cushions for the living room because your favourite bush walk is thick with nikau and ponga?

Judy-Lea Engel is the colour and design manager at Invista, one of the world's largest fibre-manufacturing companies. She firmly believes that our environment has a great deal to do with how we perceive colour – especially the kind we bring into our homes.

"Kiwis are daring and exuberant in their interior colour choices," says Judy-Lea. "We're quite similar to many Asian countries, such as Thailand,



but also to California, in that we like strong reds, yellow greens and bold blues."

She says our vegetation and the ocean, in particular, affect our sense of colour.

"We grow up surrounded by sea, fresh grass and native forests. We have beautiful reds – pohutukawas, and warm, natural timbers like rimu and totara – and all that shines through in our bold use of colour. We're surrounded by nature and we're not afraid to use it."

There are many public spaces in New Zealand where an edgy, naturally inspired colour approach is evident. One is the Ministry of Economic Development's funky in-house staff café fed@med in Wellington, where powerful greens, Pacific blues and reds in bold, geometric shapes dominate the fitout. Similarly, Jasmax jazzed up Westpac by extending the orange-red of the bank's logo throughout the interiors, giving it a modern, crisp and contemporary look.

However, not everybody likes it hot. Europeans and Australians, for example, prefer more sedate colours, like beiges, greys and pale shades of green, says Judy-Lea. Again, it seems the environment (grey in Europe, desert in Australia) could be a contributing factor.

"In Australia, they have an aversion to yellow greens like lime – it's too strong for them. They prefer subtle nuances, like jade and eucalyptus."

Another element that may explain why colour preferences differ from country to country is natural light. In New Zealand, the light is clean, clear and bright, compared with highly populated and industrialised countries, with their polluted atmospheres, where more sedate palettes are generally more popular.

Our colour sense is also inspired by our Polynesian connection, which is intrinsically earth-bound and features strong, colourful designs. Tupu Youth Library in Otara is a beautiful example of a Pacific-inspired interior, featuring Polynesian artworks on the walls, woodcarvings, desks covered with tapa cloth, and a blue carpet with a Pacific design.

The New Zealand psyche is another key factor in shaping our colour perception, Judy-Lea says.

"We are friendly, open and laid back. We tend to walk up to people and chat to them. We also like to entertain at our homes. In Europe, the mentality is different. There, people tend to be a bit more reserved and keep their homes private."

So, what about the environmental movement that's taken the world by storm? Does our quest to preserve our natural resources make us inclined to use even more greens in our homes? Judy-Lea says that while the eco-enthusiasm probably doesn't have much bearing on our colour preferences, it definitely has an impact on whether the products we use to decorate our homes (including our paints) are ecologically sustainable. And switching to sustainable products, such as eco-friendly light bulbs, which emit a brighter light than conventional light bulbs, might indeed affect the interior colours we choose!

There are various other, less obvious – but nonetheless key – drivers that help determine our perception of colour. Technology and the fact that computer graphics now enable us to manipulate colours is one such tool. Political events are another. Take 9/11, which Judy-Lea says has sparked a surge of calming aqua blues in interiors around the world, not to mention a so-called global cocooning effect; a tendency for people to entertain at home, rather than to socialise in public.

Globalisation, too, affects our choice of colour. It is now easy for people to travel anywhere in the world, and glean inspiration from the designs and colours of other cultures. In fact, we don't even have to travel to another country in person to become inspired by it, or to bring those ideas into our homes. If we like spice-coloured Moroccan fabrics, we're likely to be able to buy them over the internet.

The fact that we are living longer is also challenging and changing the rules that used to mean we behaved a certain way at a certain age. For example, it is not uncommon today for 70-year-olds to run marathons or remain in the workforce, while many of our teenagers have no qualms about joining a bowling club. How does this affect our colour choices? Well, for one, it is not expected of people to wear muted colours or have their homes painted in pastels once they reach a certain age and stage.

Finally, Judy-Lea reiterates that because it is driven by so many factors, interior colour doesn't change abruptly from season to season like fashion trends.

"I like to think of it as a colour evolution that happens gradually," she explains. "Interior colour is also very subjective, so it's important not to get too hung up on a trend – rather go with something that you're happy with. Paint is the easiest thing to have fun with. If you don't like the colour you've painted your dining room wall, well, just change it. Never be afraid to experiment!" H

Resene Altitude

colour cues for 2008

A heady blend of colour options inspired by fashion, nature, the economy and the world come together in the 2008 palette.

Continuing the trend from 2007, shades are staying current for longer, a stark contrast to the short sharp colour bursts earlier in the decade. Seasonless colours are sought after as a way to carry forward fashion, refreshed by cut, texture, pattern and placement rather than a change in shade. Forecasting is increasingly balancing fresh new brights with a sense of the traditional, bringing the two together to provide vintage hues freshened by new fashion bolds.

Surrounding us daily, nature always strongly influences the palette, providing inspiration from earth, sky and sea. Colours are becoming increasingly genderless and more elegant than previous years, with the shocking brights becoming more saturated. A host of warm earth tones is joined by rich burgundies and browns, honey yellows and citrus greens, all lightly cooled with contemporised blues and greens. The purple family continues to strengthen as pinks wane, while the yellow family and orange-edged yellow follow a similar uptrend. Red is back, buoyed by Asiatic origins and inspired by the warmth of wood. Expect to see the colours of sunset reinvented as relaxing interior backdrops.

Murky blacks provide a background for other neutrals. Plain white is waning in favour of warming mid-tones, while off-whites, rich browns and metallic greys anchor the neutral palette, joined by the soft tones of chalky pastels for broad appeal.

Metallics and pearlescents become subtle, compared to their dazzling predecessors. The warm, shimmery tones of gold expand to sun-warmed pewter complemented, by drenched sepia.

Teal will wane as youthful blue-greens grow in popularity. At the same time, ever-attractive blue will cement its position with dramatic bolder and moodier shades through to inky and smoky tones.

The Range 2008 is available from Resene ColorShops nationwide. For your nearest ColorShop in Australia, call 1800 738 383 or visit www.resene.com.au or in New Zealand call 0800 RESENE or visit www.resene.co.nz.

For more information on Smartflush®, visit **www.caroma.smartflush.info** or call into your nearest plumbing or hardware store.

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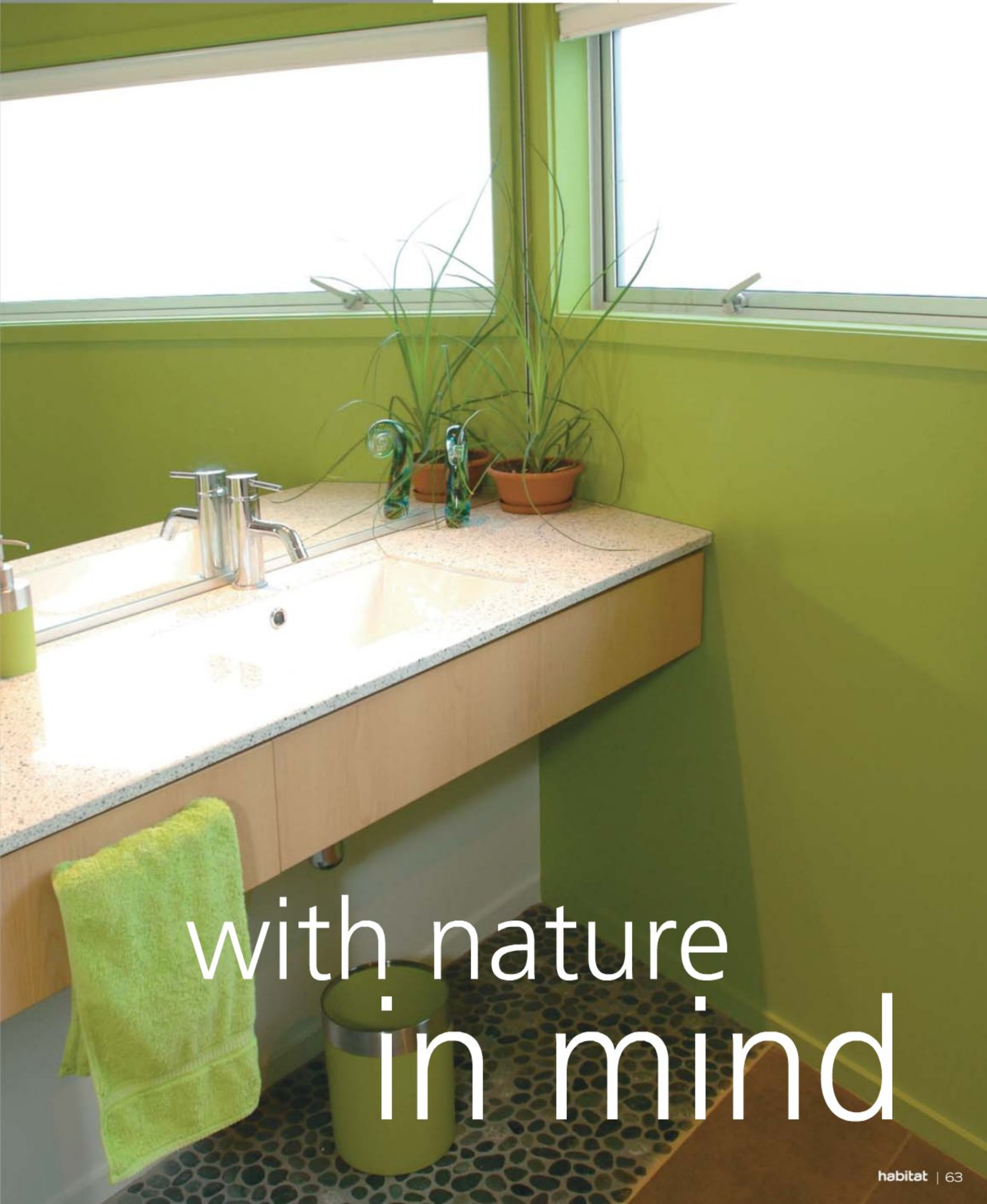
words: Deirdre Coleman
pictures: Sheena Haywood



with nature in mind

When Less is More!

Aquatica usually goes out of their way to give their customers more. But, in the case of their newest range, Only One - the ultimate in minimalistic tapware - Aquatica are actually trying to give them less.

Only One is Aquatica's latest addition to its tapware portfolio and what a stunner it is! With its sleek, simple lines, and obvious lack of handles, **ONLY ONE** is setting new standards in minimalistic elegance.

Created by award-winning Italian designer, Lorenzo Damiani, the **ONLY ONE** collection includes a Three-hole Washbasin Mixer, and Basin Mixer and Vessel Mixer, both with an adjustable spout. This spout pushes gently to the right or left to deliver hot or cold water and when pulled gently forwards, the spout controls the flow of water.

So, thanks to **ONLY ONE**, handles can be a thing of the past, and bathrooms and kitchens can look forward to a truly minimalistic look.

Oblio is yet another superb collection from Aquatica. This square and trendy minimalistic tapware range consists of Shower, Basin and Sink Mixer. With its innovative spout design, **OBLIO** is sure to be a must for any home.

Love Me From Italian designer, Maurizio Duranti, comes Aquatica's **LOVE ME** range consisting of low, tall or concealed basin mixers for the kitchen, and shower mixers, bath spouts and bath filler/shower mixers for the bathroom. There's even a stunning bath/shower column.

The whole **LOVE ME** range has an eye-catching, contemporary shape which will complement any home where the architectural lines reflect a similar design.

LOVE ME was the winner of the 2005 Good Design Award and is permanently on show at the Chicago Athenaeum, Museum of Architecture and Design.

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With its design inspired by nature, and energy efficiency an important feature, this bathroom is green in more ways than one.

That a home will sit comfortably in its natural environment is frequently a key consideration for a professional designer. And it's something that leads many to take their cues and inspiration from the surrounding landscape.

When it came to creating his own family holiday home in Albert Town near Wanaka, architectural designer Gary Todd had some striking local scenery to draw upon. He chose to incorporate natural elements such as the Clutha River, with its variations of rocks, pebbles and gravel, and the layers of sediment on its banks; as well as the mountains; and the poplars and willows around the nearby lagoon.

"The design is based around the theme of the house rising up out of the riverbed," says Gary. "It's made up of a series of three linked pavilions terraced over four levels, and using different materials: Honed block, Zincalume, plaster and glazing. These interpret the layers of sediment in the river banks."

The naturally inspired materials and themes carry through to the interior of the home and are especially effective in the bathrooms.

The main bathroom was designed for Gary's teenage children and sits adjacent to the ensuite. In addition to continuing the riverbed look, an important consideration was to create a funky design that would appeal to both teenage tastes and practical requirements.

A custom-made storage unit between the shower and vanity incorporates two glazed aluminium cabinet doors with chrome handles, to give the space a modern feel. Tall mirrors extending up to the ceiling visually increase the size of the room.

Multi-coloured river stones on the back wall of the shower flow down in a waterfall effect to the floor around the shower and beneath the vanity unit, before meeting up with the large grey tiles on the floor. Warmed by under-floor heating, these tiles allude to the big smooth rocks found down by the river.

"Standing on river-smoothed stones when you're showering is a really nice feeling," says Gary. "It brings you right back to nature."

When selecting colours for the bathroom Gary took his inspiration from the view out the long horizontal window, which looks onto the bright green leaves of the willow trees around the lagoon. A feature wall of Resene Sushi brings this natural element into the space, while the tawa joinery and speckled Stonex vanity top also incorporate aspects of the natural environment surrounding the house.

An important aspect of the design was the desire to incorporate energy-saving and environmentally friendly features. The bathroom has all the modern conveniences one could want in a home in Central Otago. These include anti-fog heat pads behind the mirrors, a chrome heated towel ladder, an extractor fan, a wall-mounted space heater, under-tile heating and shower lights. However, rather than being left on all day and consuming large amounts of power, the appliances are set on time-clocks or activated by sensor when someone enters the room.

Beneath both bathrooms is a 400-litre quick-recovery mains-pressure hot water cylinder, which supplies both showers for high-demand usability. Methven Satinjet slide shower roses help conserve water flow and limit consumption.

Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen Kitchen & Bathroom combines anti-bacterial silver protection and MoulDefender mould inhibitor, perfect for minimising unwanted nasties in kitchens, bathrooms and laundries.

Resene Barmy Army

Resene High Country

Even the paint was selected for its contribution to the environment. Used on the door and ceilings, Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen in Resene Black White creates a feeling of height in the bathroom, and complements the white vitreous china toilet suite and hand basin.

"We chose Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen because it's a great performance Environmental Choice-approved paint and is low on chemicals and odours," says Gary.

And the bathroom isn't only a hit with his discerning teenage children. It won him the Bathroom category award at the 2006 ADNZ/Resene National Design Awards. The house also won the Residential Interiors category, and was a finalist in the Kitchens, Colour, and New Residence Over 250m2 categories. H

Designer: Gary Todd Design

Cabinetry: Interior Bestwood in Tawa veneer

Resene
Lemon Twist

Basin: Gea under-mount from Robertson Industries

Taps: Methven Minimalist in chrome

Resene
Sushi

Tiles: Charcoal non-slip porcelain on the floor; Stone mat tiles in shower, all from Tile Centre Dunedin

Resene
Brownie Points

Towel ladder: Heirloom in chrome

Get the look with Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen tinted to Resene Sushi and Resene Black White.

Resene
Afficionado

Shower fittings: Pilkington Designer range glass door and handle; Methven Minimalist chrome slide shower rail and Satinjet rose

Resene
Black White

Resene
Tandoori

win
a free standing metro or soul bath
RRP: $1,799

Correctly answer this question and you'll be in the draw to win a Free Standing Metro or Soul Bath.

Name 3 of the new Athena products released on the 1st of September 2007.

Simply write your answers, along with your name, address and daytime phone number on the back of an envelope and send it to:

Athena Bathrooms
PO Box 15433 New Lynn
Auckland 0640

athena
BATHROOMS

Conditions: Competition is open to NZ Residents only. All employees and the immediate families of Clearlite® and Athena Bathrooms and their advertising agencies, are ineligible to enter. Prize may not be exchanged or redeemed for cash. Prize must be redeemed within 6 months after the draw.

Entries must be received by 30 November 2007.
The winner will be notified by phone.

liquid lines

Athena Bathrooms' new collection of showers, vanities and free-standing baths has been designed to complement a variety of tastes and styles.

From classical to contemporary, the latest Athena Bathrooms collection has been designed not only to complement, but to enhance, the diversity of New Zealand homes. This means a number of product updates and new additions feature across the company's extensive 2007/2008 range of showers, vanities, baths and spas.

With glass panels supported by slim, sleek components, Athena showers represent a marriage of style and functionality. This is defined by the new Allora Shower, which, offered as a full acrylic shower or as a tiled wall installation, combines striking chrome features with contemporary frameless styling to create an illusion of extra space.

Maximising available bathroom space is a key theme for Athena's range of vanities, which include the new Studio Range, Wave Range, Revo Range and Sirocco Range. European Vitreous China, Composite Basins and durable acrylic tops combine with a wide selection of cabinet configurations to create intelligent and discreet storage options for all bathroom shapes and sizes. New to the collection, Athena has also introduced a series of handbasins and cabinets to offer smart and functional designs for guest bathrooms, where space is truly at a premium.

Athena baths bring more than a touch of indulgence to the bathroom. The popular Liquid Range has now been expanded to include a corner 1550x1550 model. All Liquid baths feature a Hydro Spa option, which combines standard jets with new mini-turning jets to create a gentle massaging action. Athena has also introduced two new freestanding baths, Metro and Soul, to cater for both modern and classical tastes. Metro offers strong contemporary square lines, while the design for Soul is much more traditional.

The launch of Athena's new collection coincides with a new logo and look and feel for the brand. The new look has been created to mirror the values associated with Athena products, whereby a focus on style, design and timeless quality ensures functional and beautiful New Zealand bathroom designs. H

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athena BATHROOMS

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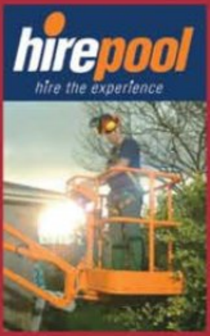
Hirepool



Whether your project around the house is big or small Hirepool has a solution to make the job easier. Talk to your local Hirepool branch – there are 56 nationwide. Hirepool, hire the experience. www.hirepool.co.nz.

We have twenty $50 Hirepool hire vouchers to give away. Answer the following question to be in to win: What discount do Resene ColorShop Cardholders receive from Hirepool? Write the answer and your contact details on the back of an envelope.

Resene

Win one of five Resene $100 paint vouchers and the latest The Range 2008 fandeck and splash some Environmental Choice-approved paint and the latest colours around your place.

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words: Mary Searle
picture: courtesy of Dreamstime

water, water, everywhere

It's easy to think that we have an unlimited resource of fresh water, but this is not the case. Increasingly, urban areas are facing water shortages. Fortunately, reducing your demand for water is easy.

Our lifestyle is synonymous with pure water. We have mile upon mile of pristine beaches, tranquil lakes and rushing rivers. Plenty of the stuff falls from the sky at this time of the year, too. However, as pure water becomes scarce around the world, we need to think about water resources for future generations.

While our access to fresh water is enviable, there are regions in the country where, in the drier months, demand outstrips supply. Water is required by many different sectors – households, agriculture, hydro-electricity generators and tourism – and it's hard to judge whose needs are greater.

Given that, here are a few simple tips to help you save water around the home. And, as many councils charge for water use, saving water should also mean saving money. Mulching the garden and taking shorter showers all adds up in dollars and cents. And not just on your water bill, either. With everyone using a little less water, councils save on wear and tear on their treatment plants, pumps and pipes, and can delay building new dams.

At home, bathrooms and toilets use the most water, so it's here we can expect to make the most savings. Mains pressure delivers between six and 24 litres of water a minute, yet research shows that nine litres a minute is perfectly sufficient. To save water, simply don't turn the tap on fully, or you can install flow restrictors or low-flow fittings. Don't confuse flow with pressure, though – you can still have fantastic water pressure while using less water.

The average shower is about 12 minutes long. Shorten your shower to eight minutes and you'll save thousands of litres of water a year. And, as it takes about 150 litres of water to fill your bath, opt for the shorter shower as often as possible

Resene Subzero

– you'll also save on your water heating bill! And if you leave the tap running while you brush your teeth in the morning and evening, you're wasting more 20,000 litres a year – that's enough to fill a swimming pool.

A household of three flushes another 60,000 litres of water down the toilet a year. You can cut this dramatically simply by installing a flush control device, or putting a brick or a couple of plastic bottles of water in your cistern. Toilets are also prone to leaking, with litres of water disappearing without you realising it. To check if your toilet is at fault, put a few drops of food colouring into the cistern. If coloured water appears in the bowl before you flush, you have a leak to fix.

The laundry is another big water user. When putting a load in the washing machine, make sure it's a full load or adjust the water level to suit (this applies to dishwashers, too). If you're in the market for a new appliance, do a little research to find a model that is water-efficient. For example, the Electrolux jetsystem sprays water and detergent on your clothes rather than filling the machine up from the bottom, using less water.

Out in the garden, use the hose or sprinkler early in the morning or late in the evening – this way you lose less water to evaporation through heat and wind, and leave more for the plants. Mulch your garden well, too. This keeps moisture in the soil and – as an added bonus – keeps the weeds down.

As well as checking for leaks in taps and hoses, try not to leave the hose running – this can waste up to 400 litres of water an hour. If you're using a sprinkler, set it on a timer, so you don't have to remember to turn it off. And while it's going, make sure you're watering gardens and lawns, not paths and driveways.

Of course, for maximum economy and sustainability, you could consider putting in a rainwater tank to supply you with free water. They're easy to install and relatively inexpensive. You'll also be easing pressure on the stormwater system, as water from your roof goes into your tank and not down the drain. Rainwater is ideal for the garden, laundry and toilet, and if treated or purified, for drinking and other household uses.

See – there are opportunities inside and out for making the most of the wet stuff. For more information and handy tips on saving water, visit www.smarterhomes.org.nz/water.

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great looks that last

In many older homes, it's not unusual for the wall linings to have been painted or wallpapered over and over again. And often, the original paint job went straight on over wallpaper. And as well as dealing with generations of wallpaper and paint, there are the cracks, holes and crumbling corners.

Until you start work, it's nearly impossible to know exactly what you will uncover. The only thing you can be sure of is that whatever method you use to remove these layers, it will take a lot longer than you ever imagined, and you are likely to damage the underlying wall lining in the process. This can all make it seriously difficult to achieve a straight, smooth and even surface – all prerequisites for a good paint finish.

Simply replacing your existing wall linings makes it much easier to get things right first time, and to build in a host of additional 21st century benefits at the same time. Install proper insulation; add more power points, TV and phone outlets; solve any noise control issues; and create a quieter and healthier home. You can also seize the opportunity to install the appropriate plasterboard lining for each area of your home, such as using water-resistant GIB Aqualine® on the walls and ceilings in bathrooms and other wet areas.

And replacing your wall linings shouldn't cost as much as you think. For around $300 extra per room, you could get brand new wall linings, and GIB-Cove® skirtings and architraves, as well as insulation in exterior walls. The end result is a superior finish, as well as a warmer, drier home.

For more information and to order your free GIB Living Solutions® Renovation Kit, phone 0800 276 276 or go to www.gib.co.nz/yourhome.

Before you start renovating or decorating, you need to decide whether it's worth restoring old wall linings, or whether it's better to start over. This decision will depend on the condition of your existing linings, how long the preparation work will take, and whether you can achieve the quality of finish you require.

1. Before shot
2. Remove existing lining
3. Top half of room lined and insulation installed in exterior walls
4. Relined room
5. Finished room

words: June-Ann Russell

power down

Reducing your carbon footprint at home can be as easy as taking a closer look at your appliances… and how you use them. When replacing them, choosing the most energy-efficient models and using them correctly will make a big difference in terms of reducing climate change effects, saving power and water, and saving you money.

So, how can you make sure you're using your existing appliances as efficiently as possible? Re-reading instruction manuals is a good start, says Mark Jones of Applico Appliances.

"It's surprising how many people don't! But understanding how your appliances work is essential to getting the full benefits from them."

For instance, why use fancy oven cleaners when most instruction booklets offer a cheaper, more eco-friendly method. Remove the baking tray and soak in warm, soapy water; turn the oven on high for 20 minutes and steam the grime for easy removal.

Don't overcook food; let meat rest for 10 minutes or so, says Mark.

"Just because you've turned the oven off doesn't mean the food's stopped cooking. In fact, leaving meat to settle makes it more tender and moist."

Take cooking a traditional roast, for example. Instead of putting the meat in the pan and arranging the vegies around it, Mark advocates a more energy-efficient approach.

"Put the meat on the wire rack and place the vegetables in their pan underneath to catch the wonderful drippings. This will cut cooking time considerably."

Then, there's the laundry.

"People tend to use far more detergent than recommended. This creates too many suds, blocks up the machine and prevents it from functioning at its best," says Mark.

Resene
Quarter Spanish White

pictures: courtesy of Fisher & Paykel and Applico Group

Take time to choose the right settings – don't just hit a set cycle button.

"Put it on soak first. This will break up dirt particles, making the wash easier. You can then finish on a fast cycle."

So, what should you be looking for when shopping for energy-efficient appliances? As well as having a good energy rating, the appliances you choose should take into consideration the specific needs of your household, says Mark. For example, smaller families should consider a smaller dishwasher. They should also maybe opt for a front-loading washing machine with a larger drum capacity and settings such as pre-soak. From large purchasing decisions to small changes in the way you use your appliances, every little bit helps!

On the road

For some, the most fuel-efficient, non-polluting and eco-friendly way to get around is a push bike; for others, it's public transport. For still others, it's a hybrid car with both a petrol-powered engine and an electric motor, a combination that improves fuel economy and helps lower emissions.

However, as an environmentally motivated car buyer, you may be concerned about swapping one problem for another – are we creating a toxic nightmare when these batteries end up in landfills? Are these hybrid batteries the same as conventional lead acid batteries, which are filled with nasty, corrosive, carcinogenic ooze?

No, they're not, says Steven Pollard of The Clean Green Car Company. The toxic levels of nickel metal batteries – the type hybrids use – are much lower. And while the challenge of recycling is some years away yet, the major car manufacturers are prepared.

"Every part of the battery, from the precious metals to the plastic, plates, steel case and the wiring, can be recycled," says Pollard.

And each battery carries as a toll-free number to call for disposal advice. Toyota offers a $200 bounty to ensure theirs are returned to the company for recycling. And Honda will collect the battery and transfer it to a preferred recycler.

And in the future? Lithium-ion batteries look set to replace the nickel-metal hybrid battery in the third-generation Toyota Prius due to be launched in a year or so. H

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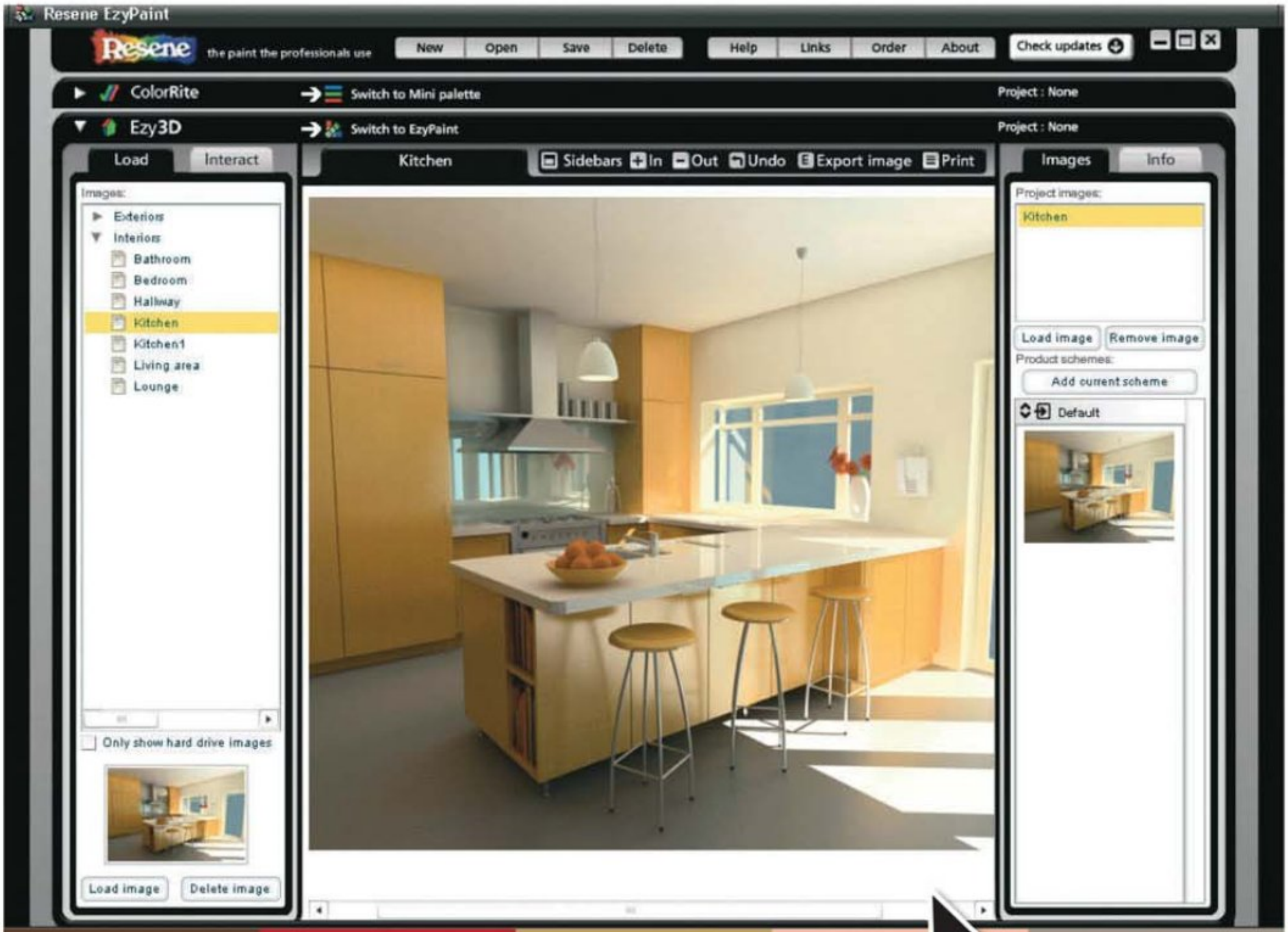
words: Rachel Macdonald



paint by pictures

Crimson seemed such a good idea on the wall of the dining room, and it's supposed to stimulate appetite. Light blue looked a great shade for the living room, but suddenly it's reminding you of your ancient great-aunt…

One of the scariest things about starting a renovation is the fear that things aren't going to look as you expected at the end of the job. Suddenly, colours are too overpowering, rooms look smaller than they should, or you end up wondering if you're living in another era entirely.

This is why Resene came up with EzyPaint. It's a software programme – available free over the internet – that allows you to experiment with different colours to your heart's content. Launched in 2000, Resene EzyPaint has drawn on seven years of customer feedback to result in the product you'll find onscreen today, whether you're working on a PC or a Mac.

So, worried about where colours sit on the colour wheel? Love Deco, but are unsure which blue complements which brown. Just experiment. To make it even easier, the programme's new colour wheel tool can suggest a wide range of complementary choices for each Resene shade you select. And if you don't get it right the first time, simply try again. The only limit to your virtual painting experience is your imagination.

Load in your favourite picture of your place, path around the areas you wish to paint and then drag your favourite colours over to see what they would look like at your place. You'll be able to try out thousands of colours, without needing to lift a paintbrush.

2

3

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5

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7

1. Open an image using the Ezy3D part of Resene EzyPaint.
2. Try out different flooring options, such as tiles, and wallpaper.
3. Paint the walls and cabinets using colours from the ColorRite colour library section of Resene EzyPaint.
4. Load an exterior image from the Ezy3D section of Resene EzyPaint.
5. Paint the image walls and roof using colours from the ColorRite colour library section of Resene EzyPaint.
6. Add paving.
7. Add plants and a new garage door.
   Keep trying other options until you get the look that is right for you.

Alternatively, if you really don't know where to start with initial colour selection, Resene EzyPaint incorporates more than 600 colour schemes to kick-start your ideas. And if you haven't got a digital image of the sitting room, there's a good chance you'll find something similar in the programme's gallery of more than 200 interior and exterior images.

What's more, because co-ordination is important right across a wider range of finishes, Resene EzyPaint doesn't just stop at colour. You'll also find textures, colours and patterns from leading manufacturers including Cavalier Bremworth, Dimond, Firth, Interion, Rockcote, Tile Warehouse, Ven-lu-ree, Vision Wallcoverings and Winstone Wallboards.

This can be particularly valuable when it comes to playing around with the Resene Ezy3D functionality, which is new to EzyPaint. Lay tiles and carpet, hang wallpaper, change your exterior cladding to plaster or brick, change your roofing, try different room heights and coving styles, all in your own 3D online environment.

Keen to get started? Try out the online version for a quick taste of the technology, then download Resene EzyPaint free from www.resene.co.nz or www.resene.com.au, or borrow or buy a copy from your local Resene ColorShop. H

Resene Altitude

Resene Bianca

Resene Guru

words and pictures: Rachel Macdonald

building a compost heap

You'll need:
timber for corner posts (we used 100mm x 100mm) and framing (we used 100mm x 50mm), half rounds for removable fronts (we used 140mm x 50mm), trellis beading, galvanised steel mesh, nails, staples, string line, tape measure, spirit level, square edge, hammer, saw, spade, wire cutters

< Step 1

Decide on the type of composting system that will best meet your needs. In this large garden, we opted for a triple-stage bin. It can take three to four months for composting to take place. In that time, the heat at the centre of the pile will approach 60˚C, and everything in the bin needs to go through that cooking process to kill any weeds and avoid putrefaction. One bin will be filled with clippings, which will be turned regularly for even aeration and heat distribution. Over the composting period, the other bins will be progressively filled and turned, so there is always a good rotation of material in and out of the system.

Then, using a string line and pegs, map out the dimensions of your composting system. Dig holes for the support posts and bed them in. It helps if the corner posts are the same height as the steel mesh you plan to use.

Step 2 >

Measure out the framing, cut to length and nail onto the vertical supports top and bottom for stability. We also used a length of half-round on the outside edges of the framing for looks, and half-way down the exterior edges for added strength, once the mesh had been added.

Step 3 >>

xx

Resene
Bling Bling

Resene
Pearl Lusta

Resene
Woodstock

Step 3 >

Secure the leading edge of the wire mesh to one of the front outside supports. Encase each bin in mesh on the sides and back, stapling the wire to the corner posts and framing as you go. The wire will let air into the bins, while still keeping the compost contained.

< Step 4

Measure and cut half rounds. You'll need one length for each vertical face of the bin fronts, and enough to close in the fronts of the bins horizontally from ground level to the top.

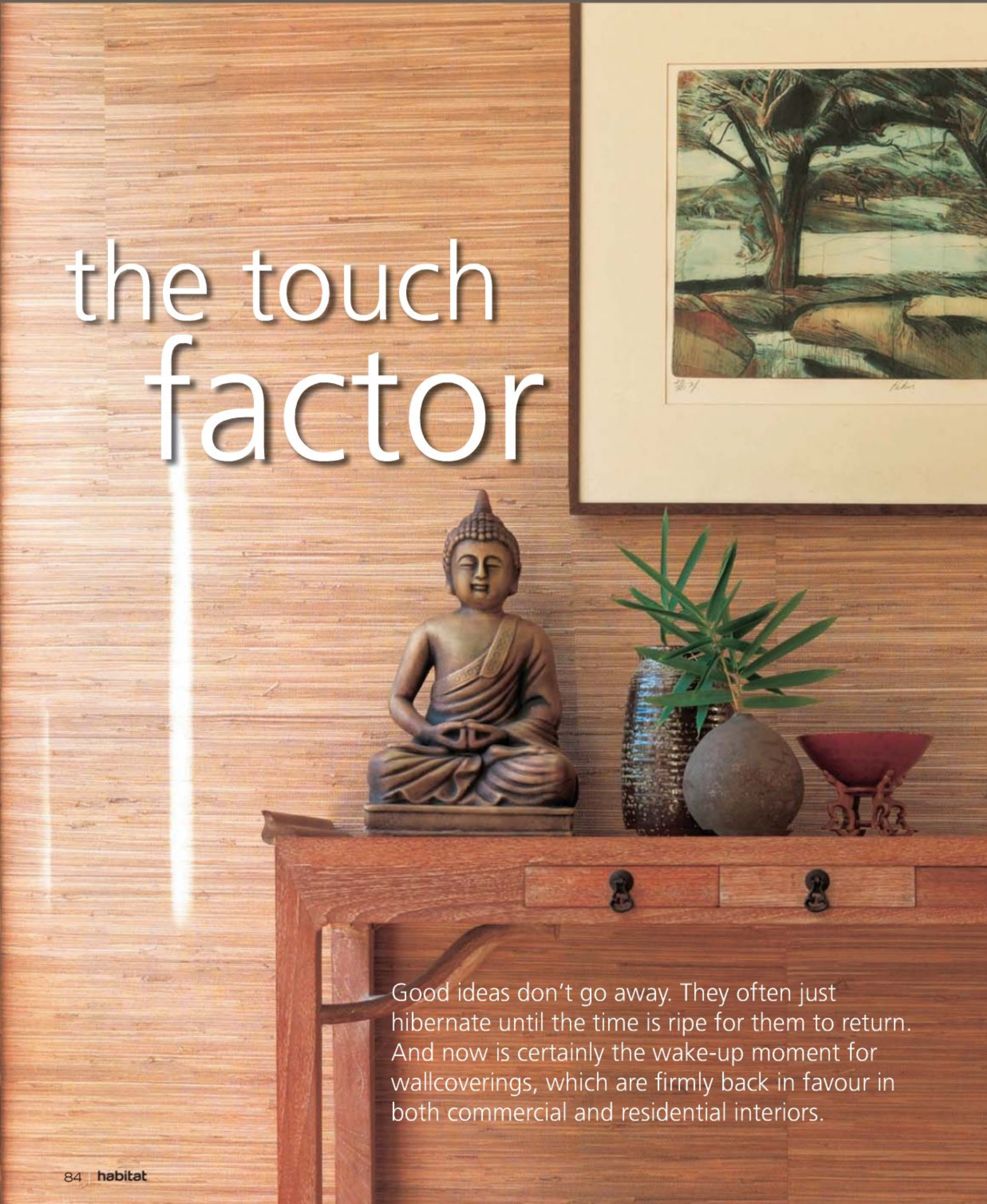
These will easily lift out to allow for the turning and removal of compost.

<< Step 5

Nail one length of half round to each front vertical side of the bins, with a few centimetres' overhang on the inside edge. Cut a length of trellis beading to the same height. Measure back from the half round to slightly more than the cross-section width of a piece of half round and nail the beading to the vertical support.

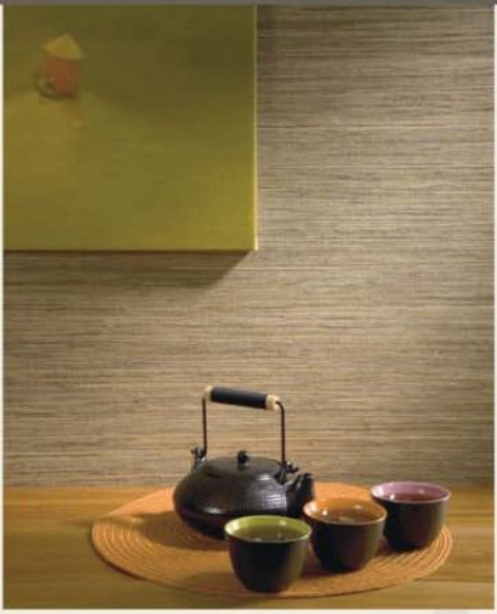
< Step 6

Drop each of the half rounds into the slots between the facing half rounds and the beading. This closes the front of the bins.



the touch factor

Good ideas don't go away. They often just hibernate until the time is ripe for them to return. And now is certainly the wake-up moment for wallcoverings, which are firmly back in favour in both commercial and residential interiors.



While much of the recent attention has fallen on wallpaper designs with "notice me" patterns – the show-stoppers that make a real visual impact – the plain and simple textured papers have much to offer too.

As today's consumers continue to lead a hectic lifestyle, they are incorporating a softer, more relaxed ambiance into their homes to create a feeling of comfort. People are looking for a balance between the high-tech world and their spiritual self. As a result, formal and ornate decorating styles are being replaced by more relaxed, playful and individual choices. Neutralisation of colour and simplification of form to match this new spirituality are elements being incorporated in wallpaper collections.

In comparison with wallpaper colour trends, which are influenced by the fashion industry, today's textural wallcovering designs are dictated more by nature. This translates into products that echo the soothing elements of nature and draw their inspiration directly from the environment.

"You can add huge textural appeal using wallpaper," as David Abbotts, design manager for Vision Wallcoverings points out. "For surface interest, there are pleated and quilted effects, as well as papers offering subtle abstract and natural textures, and with lightly pearlised and metallic finish papers, you can add sheen and lustre."

Even classic French lace has been turned into a wallcovering. And he has been experimenting with new texture effects inspired by Japanese origami, fabrics like leather and hemp, and organic natural resources like pumice and bark.

"Today's designs draw heavily on nature's elements and colours," says Abbotts. "We're seeing more interest in an earthy, natural, soothing feeling for home and retail interiors alike."

Many of today's styles not only borrow from nature, but they actually look and feel like natural too. Granite and stone papers have been created that look so real, you have to touch them to determine what they are made from. Other papers copy wood veneer or use real wood, and natural fibres like grass and jute are woven into subtle environmentally friendly patterns.

In keeping with such trends, grasscloth has become a favourite with designers as a wallcovering that effortlessly adds texture and a natural serene effect to interiors. A handmade material using natural reed, jute, and arrowroot fibres, environmentally friendly grasscloth suits both classic and contemporary environments. It even has a pleasant light and natural scent too, reminiscent of fresh air and grassy fields. Other inherent characteristics of this distinctive wallcovering include slight variations in colour and texture, which work well with earthy and oxide hues from the Resene The Range 2007 and 2008, and The Range Whites & Neutrals fandecks.

If you'd like to see more, visit your local Resene ColorShop or email info@visionwalls.co.nz, or call 0800 WALLPAPER for more information. H

VISION
wallcoverings

words: Robyn Yousef

decked out

pictures: Kallan MacLeod
stylist: Lianne Whorwood

With the addition of a roomy living room/kitchen opening out onto a large deck and back garden, this small transitional 1920s villa has been transformed into a spacious and very functional home for Kylie Dysart and Andrew Lamb, and their two small daughters.

Kylie and Andrew are only the second owners of the Auckland home, which is located in a leafy cul-de-sac amongst a cluster of tastefully renovated early villas. When they bought the house six years ago, it came with some cosmetic updates from the 1970s, but was mainly original.

"We instantly fell in love with the large section (867m2) and saw its potential. The only things in the garden were a few scraggly trees, the central plum tree and some old garden sheds, including one which housed the outside laundry," the couple explains. "When we moved in we immediately improved the master bedroom by re-decorating and adding an ensuite, and then patiently lived in the house for three years before beginning work with Auckland architect Tony Gracie on the major refurbishment."

Together, they decided to turn the old kitchen/dining area in the existing three-bedroom home into a fourth bedroom with a new bathroom and laundry, while adding a large extension at the back of the house for the living room and kitchen combined. They also wanted that very-much-sought-after indoor/outdoor flow. This was achieved with stacking doors, reaching nearly to ceiling height and about 7.5 metres in width. These open out completely to the deck, which then has two steps up to a wide expanse of lawn.

Rather than a traditional lean-to, Tony reversed the slope of the roof to maximise natural light and give a sense of open living. With the doors stacked back completely, the combined space of the living room/kitchen with the alfresco area of the deck and back lawn makes a fantastic area for entertaining. This was demonstrated recently, with a stress-free child's birthday party held in the space, with 30 small guests and a huge bouncy castle.

The result has been a total success. Evie (four) and two-year-old Sara can play happily outside in the sandpit on the kwila deck or on the swing in the old plum tree in the centre of the lawn, while Kylie works inside.

"For me, it means peace of mind. I can prepare dinner and watch the girls at the same time. It really works well."

"The function of this new area is outstanding for a family with small children," says Tony. "It's so well used, it almost makes the rest of the house redundant."

Look after your wooden deck - stain with Resene Kwila Timber Stain or Resene Furniture and Decking Oil to enhance its natural good looks.

Resene Alo Alo

Resene Fahrenheit

Resene High Country

Resene Red Red Red

It also answers the previously problematic issue posed by the home's east/west orientation.

"Instead of a small house with small windows getting very little sun, the extension has opened it up completely to the west-facing garden. And the deck was made larger than normal in order to capture more of the sun from the north in the middle part of the day," Tony explains.

He believes the new living room/kitchen melds well with the old part of the house, while the entire extension, with the deck as a transition through to the soft landscaping at the back of the garden, works seamlessly.

The deck design, along with other hard landscaping for the back garden was carried out by landscaping company Boffa Miskell. The deck is about 12m long and 4.2m deep, and is unusual in that it ascends to the grass. It also has planter boxes made from macrocarpa along each side, with one used as a vegetable garden.

With the doors stacked back completely, the combined space of the living room/kitchen with the alfresco area of the deck and back lawn makes a fantastic area for entertaining.

In the interests of maximising the usable yard area, the garden was levelled. This meant that retaining walls were required around two edges, which are now hidden by hedging. Kylie and Andrew had to cart in loads of top-soil to flatten the area and prepare it for ready lawn. The lovely

old plum tree is a natural focal point and often used to shade outdoor activities and family parties. The shell path at the rear of the garden also doubles as a petanque court.

The pair are still in the planning stages planting-wise, but it's likely they'll use predominantly natives. Two black ferns at the back of the section are particularly special to the family – they were gifts to mark the births of each of their daughters. And rather than having wooden fencing on all three sides, they wanted to soften the edges. They planted Griselinia hedging down one boundary and along the rear fence, so the lawn resembles a large enclosed courtyard.

The paints for the exterior of the house were chosen to complement the new outdoor room. The couple chose Resene Napa with Resene Blanc on the windowsills. Other accents include Resene Tea, Resene Joanna and Resene Periglacial Blue. The result is a transitional villa that retains many of its old-world charms, but for Kylie and Andrew it is perfect for 21st century living. H

alternative ideas for this garden on pages 90-93

Decking: Kwila

Resene Tea

Beaded child's toy: Cranfields

Ceramic bowl, wooden bowl and cutlery: Stylist's own

Resene Periglacial Blue

Hurricane lantern, bird bath: Maytime Marketing

Resene Joanna

Table runner, wine glasses, napkins, bowls: Nest

Cushions, vase: Madder & Rouge

Resene Napa

Get the exterior look with Resene Sonyx 101 tinted to Resene Napa complemented by Resene Lustacryl tinted to Resene Blanc on windowsills.

Resene Parachute

Resene Red Red Red

on the following pages, find two alternative style suggestions

illustration: Bruce Bryant

^ Create a tropical feel, complete with pool.

Resene Pearl Lusta

>>
Astelia chathamica

>
xx
Xx
xx xxx xxxx
www.xx

>
Coloured concrete pots

Pots N Planters
09 378 8949

<
xx
Cycad revolta

Xx
Plants from Kings Plant Barn
0800 PLANTS
www.kings.co.nz

>
xx
Xx
>
www.xx
Griselinia lucida

Phormium tenax purpureum

Ophiopogon japonicus

Resene Geneva

Resene Extrovert

Resene Woodstock

Resene Wot Eva

xx from xx suggests this alternative design:

xx

Landscape designer

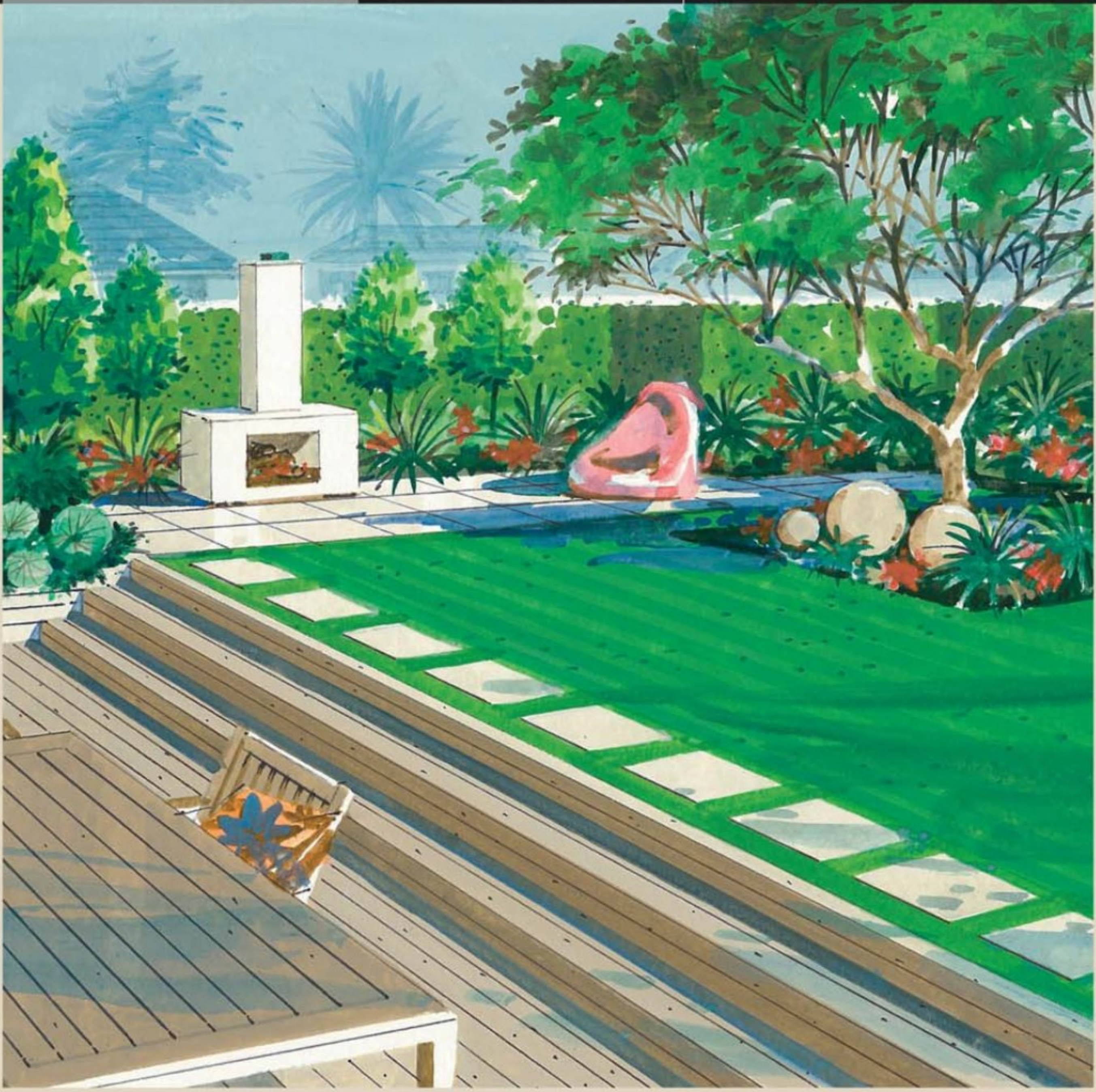
Campbell Strachan

from Leader Contracting has devised this alternative design:

The existing strong lines of the garden have been translated into a new scheme divided into three diverse, but connected areas. The planting selection includes purple Phormium tenax purpureum flax by the pool, bungalow palms (Archontophoenix cunninghamiana), potted cycads in the pool area, and Silver Spear (Astelia chathamica) on the pool/lawn fence. This combination creates a wet, warm feel, reminiscent of the tropics. The pool and spa are located to receive maximum year-round sun, while not affecting the use of the deck, barbecue area and lawn.

phone 021 557 658, email campbell.strachan@hotmail.com
xx

illustration: Bruce Bryant

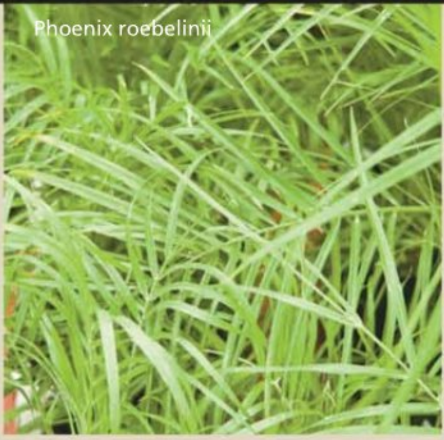


^ With the addition of the fireplace, the garden becomes an outdoor room.

Resene
Double Spanish white

Haddonstone from Jagas' Platinum Series paving

Jagas Paving
0800 4 JAGAS
www.jagas.co.nz



Phoenix roebelinii

Magnolia

Plants from Kings Plant Barn
0800 PLANTS
www.kings.co.nz

>

Hemerocallis 'Apple Annie'

Resene Spirulina

Resene Red Hot

Resene Chameleon

Resene Party Animal

>

Fireplace

Living Flame
www.livingflame.co.nz

<

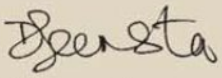
Buxus sempervirens

Diana Feenstra

from Living Space has developed this alternative landscaping scheme:

The beautiful fruit tree in the centre of the garden becomes a focal point, with the addition of three sandstone balls at its base. Uplighting the tree will also make it a feature at night. The round theme is carried through to three buxus balls in a planter.

The existing magnolias have been clipped and more have been added around the outdoor fireplace, in front of which is a floating paved area. Relocating and freshening up the entertainment area gives the garden a more modern feel, which is accented by architectural subtropical planting, including striking red Daylilies and textured Phoenix roebelinii. Background planting behind the tree adds a variety of textures, shapes and colours.



phone 09 418 5553, mobile 021 255 6044, email dfeenstra@clear.net.nz

words and pictures: with thanks to Hirepool

laying paving

< Step 1

Dig out and frame the area to be paved, to the depth of the combined paving, bedding sand and base coarse layers. Fill with base coarse, compacting between layers where it's deeper than 10cm.

You'll need:
base coarse, bedding sand, jointing sand, pavers, timber framing, 60kg and 40kg plate compactors, hand screed, paving saw, extension lead, RCD life guard, shovel, yard broom, trailer, builder's level, wheelbarrow

<< Step 2

Compact the base coarse using the 60kg compactor. It should be firm enough that the bedding sand will not be able to filter through.

< Step 3

Pour on the sand and screed it to a uniform level, using temporary guides on each side to run your screed on. Don't compact the bedding sand itself.

Step 4 >

Lay the full pavers first, starting from the straightest convenient edge. Leave 2mm-4mm between each paver to allow the jointing sand to penetrate around them.

Step 5 >

Cut any other pavers to the required size using a concrete diamond saw or paving splitter, and lay in the same way.

Special sealants are available to enhance the appearance of your paving – just apply and re-apply over time as required.

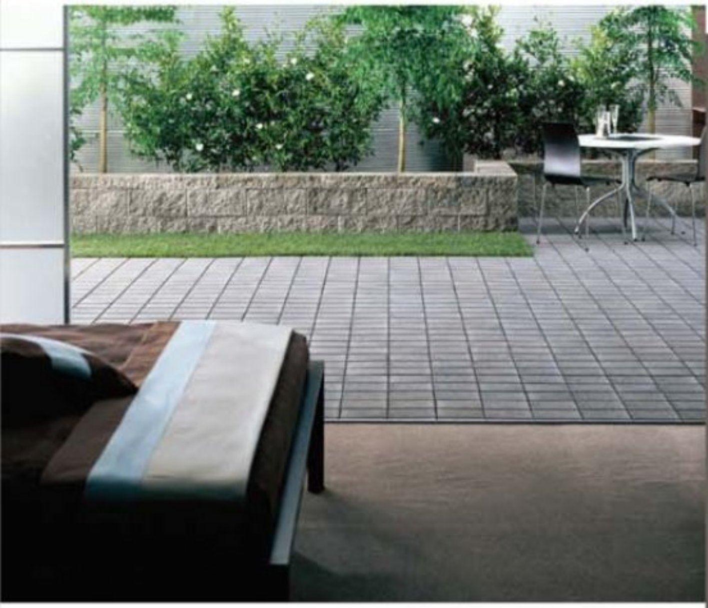
For more comprehensive instructions go to **www.hirepool.co.nz**

∧ Step 6

Sweep jointing sand over the whole area, and compact evenly using the 40kg compactor. Keep sweeping and compacting until all joints are filled.

backyard makeover

alternative ideas for this exterior on pages 98-101



Like many Kiwi homeowners, chances are you've been neglecting your backyard over the cold, wet winter months, and it's now looking a little worse for wear. However, with spring here and the summer barbecue season just around the corner, it's the perfect time to carry out an outdoor makeover.

A great way to enhance a tired-looking garden and increase your useable outdoor area is through the addition of paving and other hard landscaping elements. Karen McCalman, marketing manager at Stevenson, says paving is an easy, cost-effective way to add an extra room to your house.

"The Stevenson paving range comes in a wide range of formats and colours, all designed to complement each other, so you can create virtually any look you like," she says. "They come in modular units, which lets you mix and match different sizes to create patterns and borders. And because they're all the same thickness, they fit together perfectly."

Karen recommends using large-format tiles to make a small area look bigger, and says that using the same tile indoors and out – such as Stevenson Veneto or Alfresco pavers – creates great indoor/outdoor flow.

If you like the idea of incorporating pavers and hard landscaping into your outdoor scheme, but aren't quite sure how to go about it, the following pages might just provide the inspiration you need. We asked landscape designers Elle Anderson from A Few Birds Consultancy and Sam Lockie from Landscape Transformations to add some life and flair to this uninspiring backyard.

For further inspiring ideas on using hard landscaping, check out the newly redesigned Stevenson website at **www.stevenson.co.nz**. H

illustration: Bruce Bryant

^ Changing the orientation of the patio creates a private, spacious outdoor room.

Resene Brie

paving

Veneto Honed Tiles in Sabbia

Stevenson
0800 BLOCKS
www.stevenson.co.nz

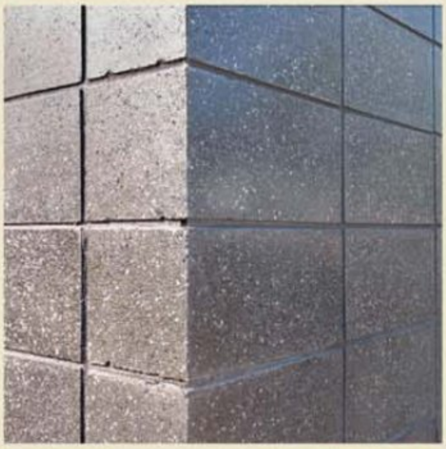
<
Feijoa

<
Thyme

>
Water-feature wall

Architectural masonry – Kohl honed

Stevenson
0800 BLOCKS
www.stevenson.co.nz



>
glass blocks

Sahara Dark Blue

Glass Block Company
0800 244 161
www.glassblock.co.nz

>>
Tamarillo, orange

Elle Anderson

from A Few Birds Consultancy suggestions the following improvements:

The main patio has been rotated to extend off the house at a 45-degree angle and lead onto a large paved space. The result is a private outdoor garden and entertainment area, planted with an array of edible plants such as thyme, rosemary, feijoa, limes and tamarillos, chosen to reflect the blue and orange tones of the house.

A 1.8m-high architectural masonry feature wall made from honed block, with two layers of splitface blocks, creates subtle sound variations as the water flows down it. Blue glass blocks, backlit at night, accent the corners of the wall and edge the pond below.

phone 09 292 4222, mobile 021 044 2057, email elleandjohn@ihug.co.nz

illustration: Bruce Bryant

^ Large pavers, comfortable seating and a water feature turn this into an appealing, functional garden.

Resene Chill Out

<
Conifer

>
Mowing strip

London pavers in Iron Sand

Stevenson
0800 BLOCKS
www.stevenson.co.nz

<<
Smooth Alfresco pavers
in Bleached Sand

Stevenson
0800 BLOCKS
www.stevenson.co.nz

<
Choisya Ternata

<
Urn

Burrelli Pots
03 384 4722
www.burrelli.com

>
Paint

Resene Aths Special
Resene Jacko Bean

Sam Lockie

from Landscape Transformations proposes the following alternative scheme:

The patio, finished in large-format Alfresco pavers, is a perfect area for entertaining. Seating and raised planters create an enclosed, private feel. Steps lead down to a path across the lawn. A mowing strip of London pavers gives structure and makes lawn maintenance easy. The fence has been re-built with brick pillars to tie in with the house, both painted Resene Aths Special, and visually softened by lattice trellis stained Resene Jacko Bean. Low-maintenance box hedging and conifers can be trimmed into tidy shapes. An urn water feature provides a cooling element in the summer and comes alive under lighting at night.

phone 09 480 8141, mobile 021 161 8358, email sam@landscapetransformations.co.nz

words: Kate Williams
pictures: Kallan MacLeod

model business

A plantation of waving palms and another of blossoming pink plums. Rows of tiny dream homes tucked on a tray. A drawer full of miniature people going about their business: White-clad nurses pushing patients on gurneys, businesspeople lugging briefcases, elegant diners lingering over their meal.

Welcome to Steve Snow's world, where everything is one twentieth or one two-thousandths the size of real life. Where all is unblemished and perfect, held together with glue and miniature brush-strokes. Here, in a converted church on the edge of Devonport on Auckland's North Shore, Steve and his crew of skilled model-makers have spent more than 20 years creating models and miniatures for film-makers, architects, developers and designers.

Calliope Studios is one of the largest of only a handful of professional model-building workshops in the country. Film-based studios such as Richard Taylor's Weta Workshops focus on the glamour end of the market: Mechanical models, miniature sets, masks, prosthetics and props (and yes, thank you, there is plenty of life in that sector after the Peter Jackson blockbusters). Steve's artists, on the other hand, have become specialists in the business end of the market, in particular helping to sell apartments and subdivisions nationwide and around the world.

"A brochure or architects' drawings can only do so much to convey the feel of a property," explains Steve. "Put a model in front of people and they can immediately see how they could live there."

Many of his models are living objects, changing with the real world. Steve's artisans are currently re-working a lakeside development in Wanaka that started five years ago. Rows of tiny houses have been scraped off, roads re-laid, parks repositioned and trees 'grown' to convey the look of today, ready for a new batch of buyers to view.

Given such skilled specialisation, the company's bread and butter has become architectural and engineering models for developments as far afield as Fiji and Dubai. However, fun projects include making 'tombstones' for the finance industry: A set of baby gumboots or a tiny tree trunk to mark out a major corporate transaction.

Steve reckons that he spends about a quarter of the project figuring out the approach, exploring the miniature materials, and problem solving.

"That's the fascination of this type of work; the mental activity and lateral thinking. Then you just do it."

He modestly reckons the artists just get lost in the handwork, "like painting a house while your mind wanders elsewhere". However, the level of detail suggests more focus than that. And he wryly admits that a sense of humour is essential – three hours of painstaking work can be undone in one false move.

While some of Steve's team are the products of professional architectural modelling training in the UK, most of his freelancers have come from varied backgrounds or hobbies such as Dungeons and Dragons gaming or model railways. Steve himself trained in film and TV production and still photography in his native Southern California. He then wended his way to New Zealand with his family via a 15-year stop in Australia and a stint as a general handy-at-everything guy on Kangaroo Island (population 3500). Yachting friends persuaded him to join them in buying land on Great Barrier Island, but it took him 10 years to finally make it to New Zealand.

He chanced into model-making through his first job here for a graphics and photography company, when a graphic designer asked him to help out on a couple of architectural models. Steve's childhood skills with kitset cars and trains re-surfaced. Some months in a props studio gave him the grounding he needed to open his own business and, like many local artisans, he benefited from the glory time of Hercules and the big movies filmed Downunder.

The tools of his trade are deceptively simple: Fine architectural plastics replace the cardboard of old, china clay is fired and hand painted for houses, wallboard plaster used to smooth contours and create rolling landscapes. Everyday Resene sealer is used over the plaster, then lawns, beaches and landscapes are created using Resene testpots and enamels – Steve even reckons the ladies at his local Resene ColorShop know exactly which shades he needs for his projects, right down to the right tint of blue for a swimming pool or marina! An enticing palette of special modelling sands – in all shades of greens and browns – is sprinkled on the still-wet enamel to create texture, built up in increasingly coarse layers for planter beds, bushes and more.

"A model is so much more engaging for people than some computer fly-through or simulation", says Steve. "I think we respond models on a much more human level." H

Resene Billy T

Resene Breakwater

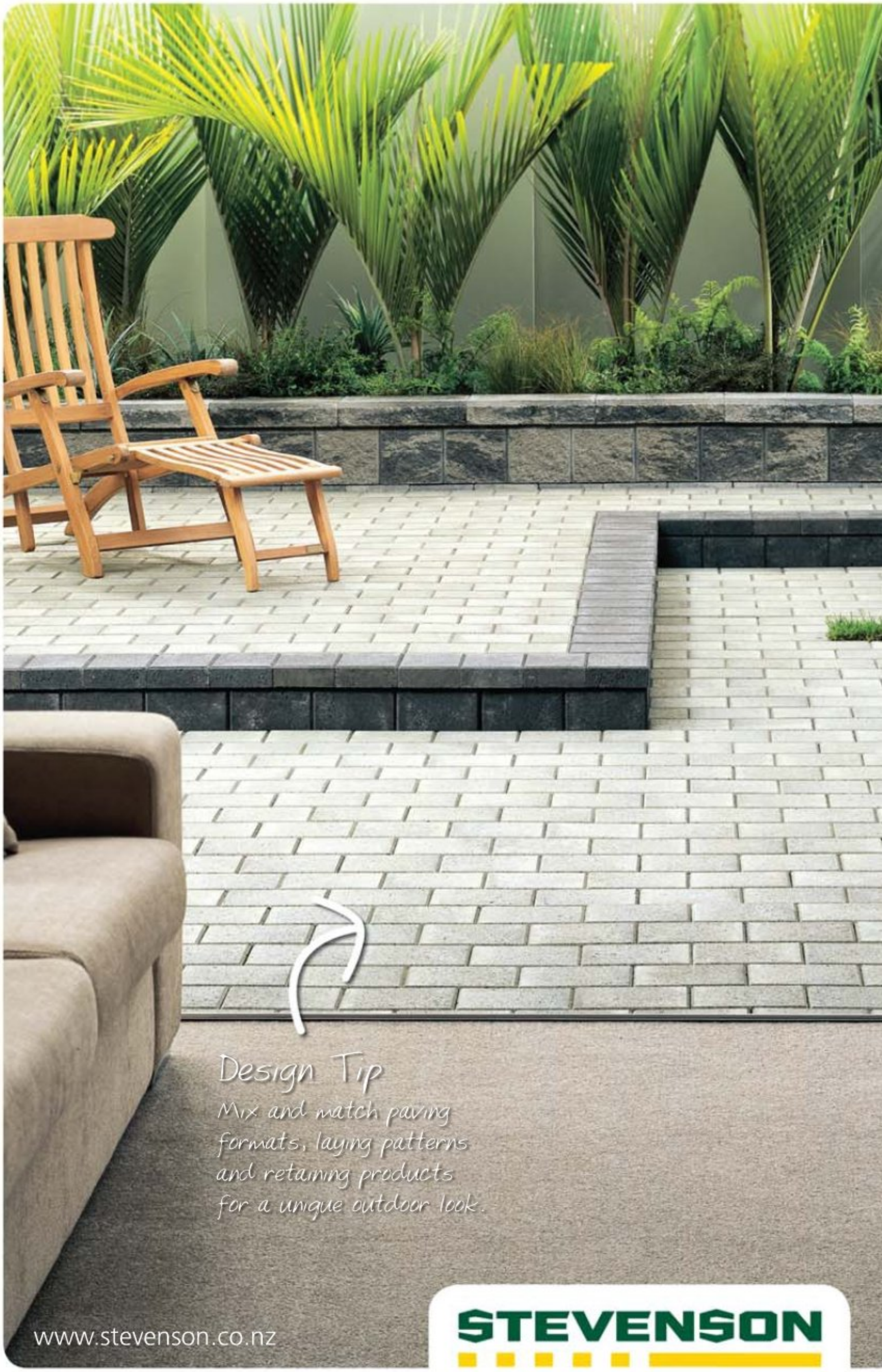
Resene Half Sea Fog

Style doesn't need to stop at the back door

At Stevenson you'll find the essentials to turn your outdoor living area into a statement of your individual style.

Visit us today and allow one of our experienced professionals to guide you through our showcase of colours, shapes and sizes in classic masonry or clay pavers; handcrafted wetcast alfresco pavers or European-inspired terrazzo tiles. For a perfect complement to any of the pavers, choose from our contemporary garden edging, retaining and free standing wall systems.

Let us inspire you to create the outdoor area of your dreams.



words: Mary Searle
pictures: courtesy of Dreamstime

arborist

So, that mighty oak out the front is blocking the light? Rather than lopping its top off, and thereby completely ruining its shape and health, call in someone who can provide a solution to suit both your needs and the tree's requirements.

Resene Middle Earth

To some, a towering tree in the garden is a thing of beauty and grace to be enjoyed and cherished. To others, it's nothing but trouble. It blocks the sun, obscures the view and sheds leaves for months on end. Regardless of which camp you're in, when it comes to pruning or removing trees, you should call in the professionals.

David Glenn is the president of the New Zealand Arboricultural Association and notable trees registrar for the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, so he knows his rimu from his rata, his chainsaws from his handsaws. And he knows a good arborist when he sees one.

"An arborist needs to combine the needs of the person with the needs of the tree. This is where their skill is crucial, as different trees respond differently to various treatments," he says.

Like any tradesperson, when you're looking to hire an arborist, you should get three quotes. David says referrals from friends and colleagues are an excellent way to find a good arborist. The Yellow Pages is another good place to start. You could also contact your council, as local authorities often have a list of preferred contractors.

However, David says that arborists tend to specialise in either pruning or tree-felling. Tree-felling, especially around houses and powerlines, is very tricky and requires a high level of skill, so in your first phone call to an arborist, ask if they're pruners or fellers. Also ask about their insurance – sometimes tree-felling is excluded on a residential policy.

Aside from pruning and felling trees, a qualified arborist should be able to advise you of your legal rights for neighbouring trees overhanging or shading your property. Also, when you're thinking of planting, they can give you sound information on the best choice of tree for the site.

It's very important that your arborist gets the chance for a full consultation prior to providing a quote and undertaking any work. They will need to visit the property to view the tree in question and identify any issues that could cause difficulties when undertaking the task; things like power lines, underground services, roads, the slope of the section and the garden in general. These potential problems should all be on the quote. The health of the tree in question also needs to be discussed, with the arborist identifying disease, decay and root issues. Also, as part of the quote, the arborist will check if resource consent is required.

Your quote should also detail how the debris is to be dealt with – getting rid of it is half the job. Do you want it left on site? Chipped and removed to be sold as mulch? Chipped and left on site for you to use as mulch? Or chopped into firewood? The quote should be detailed, right down to the size of the wood chips you want, as each of these disposal methods takes a different amount of time.

When you're having a tree felled, stump removal is not usually part of the job. So, ask for it to be included if you want it done. How the stump is to be dealt with once it's removed should also be in the quote – be aware, a tree stump can provide a surprisingly large pile of woodchips!

The tree team will arrive on site with an array of gear – up to five different-sized chainsaws, a wide range of ropes for climbing and roping branches down, handsaws and secateurs for small pruning jobs, a brushwood chipper, a small truck, possibly a small crane to lift branches, and a stump grinder if required. How many people show up will depend on the job. David says it would take one arborist two hours to formatively shape a 20-year-old oak tree, but it would take a three-man team a full day to thin and prune a 120-year-old oak. Felling a large tree could take two full days.

Tree work is covered by the OSH code of practice, with which all arborists must comply. So, your tree team will have hearing and eye protection gear, hard hats, steel-capped boots and the appropriate chainsaw safety equipment.

The biggest thing to bear in mind, though, says David, is to be sure that when you receive a price for the work, you are absolutely clear as to whether it's a quote or an estimate. You don't want any nasty surprises when the bill arrives! H

Flooring First's stunning new luxury nylon carpet collection:

So colour rich, fade free and wear resistant, your visitors may think it's new 15 years from now.

Flooring First's Mt Blanc collection is natural-looking nylon crafted from fibres colour saturated right through – much like a carrot. And so the colour is richer.

Other carpets are coloured only on the surface – like a radish. That's why their colour can become faded by light or atmospheric contaminants.

The Mont Blanc collection is graded ACCS Residential 6 Stars. Victoria Carpets' Solution Dyed Nylon (SDN) Warranty guarantees your carpet against pile weight loss by abrasive wear of not more than 30 percent over 15 years. That's when wool alternatives subjected to the same wear may even become 'threadbare."

* Ask your Flooring First consultant about guarantee terms and conditions.

(True! And you'll love the savings – up to 30 percent less than for a comparable rated wool alternative!)

Experience the look and feel of our new Mont Blanc carpets and you'll find it hard to believe that they're made from nylon and not wool. Even more remarkable is their unique 15 year guarantee* against wear, colour fading, soiling and staining, long after comparable rated wool carpets look faded, worn or ready for replacement. You'll love the long life richness, texture, colours and wearability Mont Blanc offers. See the collection now. Created by one of the world's oldest carpet makers, Victoria Carpets. And exclusive to Flooring First.

Victoria Carpets
Fine carpets since 1895

Only here and nowhere else.

Flooring First®

MONT BLANC

www.flooringfirst.co.nz 0800 464748

NORTHLAND:
Whangarei: Floorcraft Flooring First
AUCKLAND:
Manukau: Flooring First
Takapuna: Carpet Time
Warkworth: Flooring First
WAIKATO:
Hamilton: Selecta Carpets
Otorohanga: Murray Hunt Furnishers
Te Awamutu: Collins Flooring First
Taumarunui: Country Carpet & Furniture
Thames: On All Floors
Tokoroa: Footes Flooring First
BAY OF PLENTY:
Mt Maunganui: Carpet Xtra
Rotorua: Focus Flooring First
Taupo: Midway Flooring First
Tauranga: Simons Carpets, Judea
Whakatane: Read's Trading Co.
TARANAKI:
New Plymouth: Classic Carpets
Inglewood: Drakes Furnishers
Waverley: E.C. Dallison
WANGANUI:
City: Wanganui Furnishers
HAWKE'S BAY:
Napier: Flat Tack Flooring First
Hastings: Carpet Warehouse Flooring First
Waipukurau: Brookers Furnishers
PALMERSTON NORTH:
City: Lew's Creative Flooring
WAIRARAPA:
Masterton: McKenzies Flooring First
WELLINGTON:
City: Floor Store Thorndon Quay
Petone: Ridley & Cutting Flooring First
MARLBOROUGH:
Blenheim: Hubbers Furnishings
NELSON:
City: Hubbers Flooring First
Richmond: Richmond Flooring First
CHRISTCHURCH:
City: Carpet Kingdom, Hubbers Furnishings
Rangiora: Hubbers Furnishings
TIMARU/OAMARU:
Washdyke & Oamaru: Don Simpson Carpets
OTAGO:
Dunedin: Dunedin Carpet Company
Cromwell: Guthrie Bowron Flooring First
Wanaka: Lakeland Flooring
SOUTHLAND:
Invercargill: H&J's Carpet World, Hubbers Furnishings
Winton: Winton Flooring Specialists
Gore: Thompson Flooring & Window Furnishings
WEST COAST:
Westport: Bradleys Furniture

HAB 9/

diy kidz

Resene Neva

Resene Dizzy Lizzy

Splish Splash

Resene Honey

NEVER BOARD WITH CARD!

So many parents know the feeling – you spend all that time choosing the perfect present, but it's the cardboard packaging that's actually the hit with the child. It was with this in mind that Rae Thomas developed Kids Place – play solutions in a box.

Kids Place cardboard houses are quick and easy to assemble and pack away. They offer hours of painting and colouring fun as children create their own tailor-made environment inside and out, followed by role-playing galore. Is it a house? Is it a barn? Is it a school?

To enjoy a Kids Place playhouse:

Visit the website at www.kidsplace.co.nz and choose from a plain house or a pre-themed one – jungle animals, Spiderman – great for themed parties.

Download the order form and send it off.

Receive your flat-packed Kids Place house and voucher for a free Resene testpot to help with decorating.

Tuck the house away for the birthday morning or set it up on Christmas night and pop the children's presents inside.

Let the children go wild – paints, pens, stencils – try old wallpaper on the inside and maybe even curtains. Try Resene Magnetic Magic and Resene Blackboard Paint for more role-playing fun.

Note: Kids Place cardboard houses are best for indoors. They don't do very well in the rain!

Resene Lollipop

words: Rachel Macdonald
pictures: Kallan MacLeod

Resene Princess

1

2

3

4

To assemble:

Unpack the playhouse pieces from the storage box. There should be a roof and two side/end panels. Keep the storage box for when you want to pack it away.

Gently bend all tabs and press out the perforated slots for the roof, windows and door.

Stand one side/end panel up, with peaks at top. Fold flaps at bottom inwards.

Stand other side/end panel up, with peaks at top. Fold flaps at bottom inwards.

Join the two side/end panels together by inserting tabs into slots. The walls should now be standing independently.

Place the roof on top of the walls and insert tabs to connect.

Now, it's time to get decorating and playing!

Win a Kids Place playhouse!

Those of us here at *Habitat* with small kids have fallen in love with the Kids Place cardboard playhouses. They are easy to put together and supremely customisable with paints, felt pens or crayons and your child's imagination. Best of all, we've got one to give away. For a chance to win just write your details (name, email address, address and a daytime phone number) on the back of an envelope and send to

Kids Place
Habitat
PO Box 91344
AMSC
Auckland 1142

Resene Fudge

Home & Food Magazine and Editor of the Year 2007

Dish has **come out on top** again at this year's MPA Magazine Awards – winning 'Home & Food Magazine of the Year' for the second year in a row.

The judges commented that: "This magazine's clean, clear and consistently high quality design is complemented perfectly by accessible, informative writing."

The 2007 Award ceremony also saw *Dish* editor, Catherine Bell, awarded 'Editor of the Year – Home & Food'. The judges said Catherine's genuine aim to inspire people about food, to learn where it comes from, how it is grown and how it relates to 'home', shines through.

Dish was also a finalist in 'Journalist of the Year – Home & Food' for writer Nicole Curin-Birch and 'Designer of the Year – Home & Food' for creative director Mary Davy.

On sale now or go to www.dish.co.nz

ANOTHER JONES MAG

words: Rachel Macdonald, with thanks to WA$TED! and Random House
pictures: Brian Budgeon

no effort wasted

When it comes to us so-called Tidy Kiwis living in clean, green New Zealand, there's actually quite a gap between fiction and fact when it comes to the figures.

Did you know that, per capita, New Zealand is ranked among the top 10 highest rubbish producers in the world? Each year, we throw out 3.2 million tonnes of garbage – about 40% of which is food scraps? A further 20% is paper, which could so easily be recycled. And it all sits there in the ground, slowly breaking down, over hundreds of years if it's plastic, and breathing methane into the atmosphere if it's organic.

The exciting thing, though, is that it doesn't have to be this way. Turning those figures around is one challenge that every one of us can help make happen, simply through small lifestyle tweaks. Collectively, these have the potential to create major change for the better… and significantly reduce our household bills as well!

"A lot of us are very aware that there's a problem, but don't know how to tackle it. Because there is more to just being right or wrong when it comes to going green. Is it about being less toxic, creating less carbon, using more renewable resources… the list goes on?" says Carthew Neal, creator of TV3's WA$TED! programme and the resulting "how-to" book of the same name, which was launched in bookshops last month. "And you know what? It's not so much about saving the planet – that'll go on turning, whatever the weather does – it's about making sure we're still around to enjoy it!"

Carthew pitched the idea for WA$TED! at a film and TV conference back in 2005, having just got back to New Zealand from working in television in the UK. It was

Resene Buttery White

Resene Double Alabaster

immediately embraced, funding was sourced from NZ On Air, and filming started in March last year. Now, WA$TED! is screening or in production in Canada, Denmark and Spain – this is a global, not a regional concept, and New Zealand television is now leading the way.

"In the UK, I saw popular programmes on our guilt around cleanliness at home, and could see another greater modern-day guilt coming: wastefulness. The good news is that we can all do something about it," he says. "In the course of making WA$TED!, we found that everyone who starts on the journey gets hooked. It's a great, empowering feeling to be creating healthy spaces and healthy lifestyles, and to know that you are making a very real difference."

And as he rightly observes, there's no point laying out all the problems if you can't offer solutions as well. This is why WA$TED! starts by introducing a method for auditing the impact your lifestyle is having on the world around you, so that you have a benchmark by which to judge progress as you start to make the little alterations that lead to cheaper bills and a weekly rubbish bin that's only half full. From there, the extensive list of ways to reduce your household's eco-footprint – along with instructions and hints, and a guide to how much money you can save! – includes:

> Putting food scraps into worm farms– which reduce food scraps to 5% of their original mass – compost heaps or Bokashi, and making sure you don't over-purchase at the supermarket.

> Keeping an eye on the amount of packaging you take home as an incidental extra to shopping – we send more than 80,000 tonnes of plastic to landfills every year, much of which is packaging.

> Re-using your shopping bags – if the country's plastic bags were recycled and turned into fence posts, they would go around our coastline one-and-a-half times.

> Sending whiteware and electronic equipment to a recycler, not the dump – Fisher & Paykel takes back 25,000 appliances each year, and manages to recycle around 75% of the weight of each one.

> Making sure litter goes into the rubbish bin – and that includes cigarette butts, which can contain up to 4000 toxins!

> Purchasing a power monitor to assess electricity usage.

> Making sure homes are insulated, ventilated and gaps are sealed – every $1 spent on insulation saves the country $2 in doctor's visits and days off work.

> Turning down the hot water cylinder – every extra 10 degrees uses 15% more electricity.

> Considering solar heating.

> Using energy-efficient bulbs – if every NZ household installed five of these, we'd save enough energy to power every home in Christchurch.

> Setting the fridge correctly – if all our beer fridges were turned off, we could close down the South Island's Coleridge power station.

> Collecting rainwater and grey water.

> Biking, walking, skateboarding, or using public transport.

> Planning car travel efficiently.

> Tuning the car regularly.

For masses more ideas and ways to track your own progress, pick up a copy of WA$TED! (we have a few to give away in this issue of Habitat on page 70) or log on to www.wastedtv.co.nz. H

did you know:

WA$TED! isn't just about talking environmental responsibility; keeping the programme's own footprint as small as possible was a key concern for the production crew behind the scenes as well, and won them the government's Green Ribbon Award. Initiatives included:

> Using a hybrid vehicle.

> Using travel mugs instead of disposable cups.

> Recycling and composting in the office and on location.

> Recycling DVDs and CDs.

> Crew car pooling.

> Buying recycled paper and toilet paper.

> Composting and recycling all the waste collected from homes featured in the show.

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words: Rachel Macdonald
pictures: Sally Tagg

in touch with your roots

There are two ways to create a tidy, harmonious, productive garden. You can employ metres of plastic weed-mat, soak everything with chemical fertilisers, and employ lashings of pesticide.

Alternatively, you can take a more organised approach; plant to suit the conditions, think about mulches and groundcovers, and keep on top of garden pests as they start to appear, rather than struggling with full-blown infestations, afterwards. However, all this doesn't mean your garden has to be high maintenance, says Maggie Barry. It just means taking time out to keep in touch with the plants, always with timely intervention in mind.

"No garden is completely maintenance-free. Those that come close can tend not to feel like healthy spaces, and in fact often aren't particularly eco-friendly either," says Maggie. "I'm thinking of the advent of fortress properties as we demand increased privacy and security. Hedges have given way to walls in many suburbs, so we lose the plants that create habitats for our birds and other animals like hedgehogs, both of which are great for slug and snail control."

There's also an impression that hedges are hard work, she says, but with the choice of plants now available, they don't need to be huge and dusty these days. They can be

The ideal garden is happy, healthy, and weed and bug free. All it really takes to keep it that way is a keen eye for detail, says broadcaster and gardening enthusiast Maggie Barry.

neat, compact, and only need pruning twice a year.

"And they keep us in touch," says Maggie. "They give us a sense of season and let the invigorating winds blow through."

One garden element that is currently fashionable – in a trend that has positive eco-spin-offs – is our fascination with water features. Not only do they look good and sound restful, but the birds love them, both for bathing and drinking.

"You know, I once heard that birds are like the French – they need a good drink to wash down the snails," she laughs.

She's also an advocate of indicator plants – think of the rose bushes at the end of the grape rows in a vineyard, traditionally used to show when disease was on the way. It depends, though, on what your garden suffers from.

"Auckland's humidity tends to promote the growth of powdery mildew, and the first to feel it will be violas and pansies. Just make sure you dispose of the sick plants in the rubbish, rather than contaminating the compost heap. In Wellington, on the other hand, my problem is the wind, and hellebores are great for showing when they're reaching the end of their tolerance."

She also uses plant indicators inside.

"I'm a great believer in houseplants," she explains. "They take up the carbon dioxide and chemicals such as formaldehyde, filtering and enriching the air. They don't ask for much. I spend 10 minutes a week on mine and I have more than 30 plants. Impatiens are great for showing when they're thirsty, so the moment I see them drooping, I know that everything needs the watering can. Cyclamen are a bug magnet and are the first to show it when the bugs come out. At that stage, I plant them indoors."

The trick, she says, is to make sure you keep tabs on what you planted and when, and when pests and disease have cropped up in the past. To that end, she's just released Maggie's Garden Diary 2008. Along with helping you keep life organised, it also encourages you to note garden events, and has offers lots of pointers on when and what to prune, plant, mulch and maintain.

"Keep your garden diaried – when did plants flower, when did they get infested, what do you need to look out for next year, so you can get on top of it without having to resort to the spray pack," she says.

So take a moment as often as you can to enjoy your outdoor spaces. They'll more than reward you for it! H

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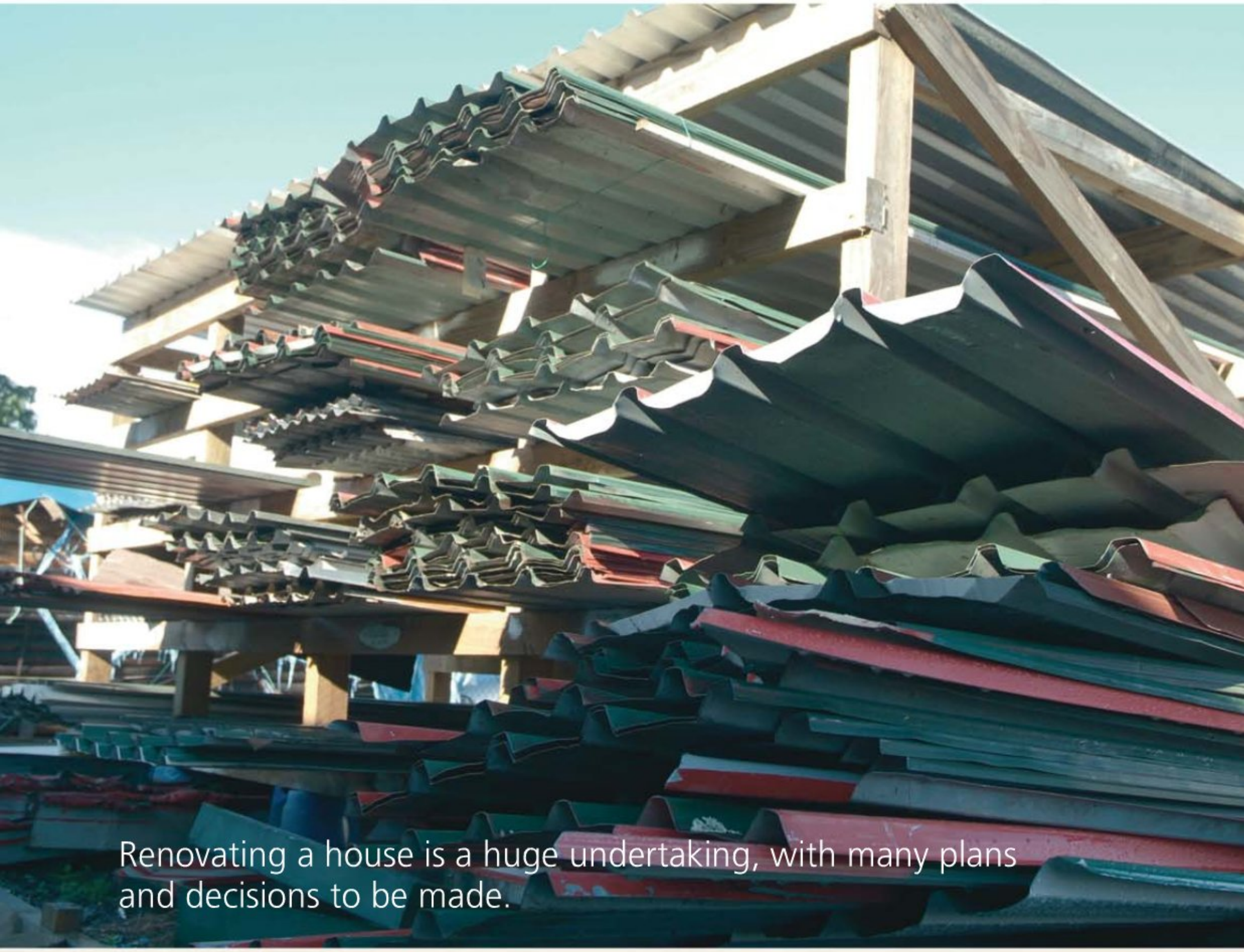
words: Mary Searle
pictures: Elizabeth Goodall

research, renovate, recycle



Renovating a house is a huge undertaking, with many plans and decisions to be made.

Until fairly recently, considering what happens to the waste materials that get ripped out hasn't been much of a priority for builders or homeowners. This is a fact clearly demonstrated by the huge amount of waste the industry contributes to our landfills – a hefty 17%. Happily, this state of affairs is changing, with the emergence of more recycling operators and a growing awareness among builders and home renovators of waste-reducing measures. Did you know that with a little research and some planning, you could reduce the load in your skip by a whopping 60%?

So, where to start? For sound advice and practical tips, take a look at www.rebri.org.nz, the website of Resource Efficiency in the Building and Related Industries. One of the first suggestions it makes is really a call to action. It asks you to make a conscious decision to re-use and recycle as much of your waste material as possible, and to incorporate this ideal as an integral part of your renovation plans.

Firstly, it suggests, discuss things with your builder and make it clear you care about the environment and the ever-increasing landfills. Once that is established, your next job is to make an inventory of all the types and quantities of materials that you might be able to recycle. You'll be surprised at quite how much can be salvaged.

Concrete can be crushed and used as hardfill. Brick can be re-used, or crushed and used as landscape cover or fill. Asphalt can be recycled. Wood – depending on whether it

has been treated or not – can be recycled, re-used or sold as firewood. Windows and doors can be re-used. Metal can be separated for recycling or re-using. And electrical and plumbing fixtures can be re-used.

Have a look on www.trademe.co.nz, under building and renovation, for a taste of what people salvage. It's all there, from ranchsliders to bags of door hinges. Clearly, though, only so much can be sold that way; for the majority, you will need to approach a waste recycling company.

An efficient way of finding the right one of these is through www.ronz.org.nz, the website of the Recycling Operators of New Zealand. It holds directories of recycling operators for the Auckland area, Hamilton and Christchurch. Simple drop-down menus allow you to search under material type and then match this with a service provider.

You can also make use of waste exchanges, which match new end users of materials with those who wish to dispose of them free of charge. There are 14 of these in the New Zealand – log on to www.wasteexchange.org.nz to find the one closest to you.

Once you know what you can rescue out of the process, ensure you've got somewhere safe and dry to store your salvaged items as your renovation gets under way. Planning is essential here; make sure you know where and how each material will be stored until it can be sold or passed on to a recycling operator.

Debbie and Steve Irwin completed a total renovation of their 1920s bungalow last year and worked hard to reuse or recycle as much of the waste material as possible.

"My builder was extremely helpful and gave us lots of advice on what we could sell or re-use. We were amazed at how much we sold on Trademe – our old chimney bricks and window frames, for example. Our old timber was untreated, so we sold that as firewood with an advert in Trade and Exchange and even put a notice out on the street one weekend, which worked a treat," Debbie explains. "It was great, too, that we could use our old roof tiles as backfill in the garden, which saved us time and money."

Before demolishing any part of your building, consider whether it could be deconstructed. This is generally kinder to the environment and may net you a surprising dividend, as Debbie and Steve found out.

"Instead of demolishing our worn and weary aluminum conservatory, we carefully dismantled it and sold it through the Herald to a guy who carted the lot off in his truck for use at his bach. We were $800 better off," Debbie enthuses.

At the end of their renovations, they also made use of their local Resene PaintWise collection centre to recycle the many empty paint containers they had accrued. More than 40 Resene ColorShops will accept any unwanted paint or paint containers, no matter what the brand (a small charge applies for non-Resene paint and trade).

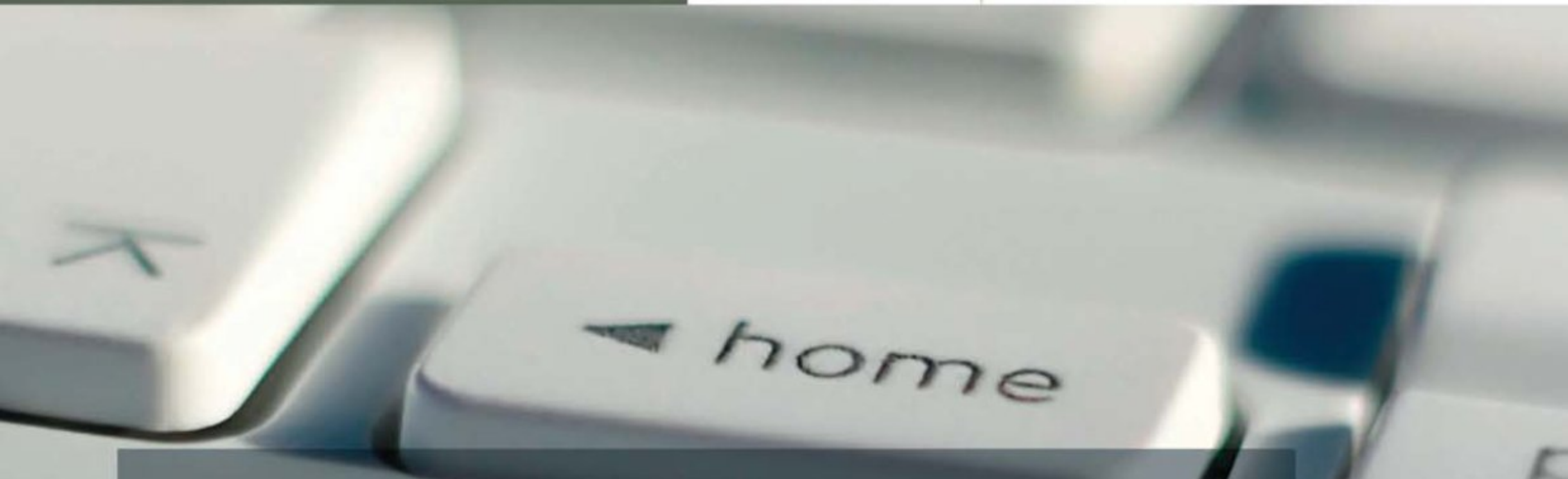
So, in a nutshell, treat the fabric of your house just like you might do your contents. Re-sell, recycle, re-use, give to your community, or dispose of responsibly. The environment certainly benefits and so will your pocket. H

For more information on the Resene Paintwise service see www.resene.co.nz/paintwise.htm.

Resene Freedom

Resene Half Pearl Lusta

words: June-Ann Russell
picture: courtesy of Dreamstime



saving the world starts at home

Thanks to technology, many of us enjoy the freedom and flexibility of working from home.

However, higher energy usage also means we pay for the privilege. Computers, lighting, heating and air conditioning, not to mention putting the jug on for a cuppa several times a day, are all guaranteed to drive power bills up. So, what are some key things to consider when setting up an energy-efficient home office that will keep you comfortable while taking care of business?

Manage your office equipment diligently

Activate sleep features on computers, copiers and other machines – contrary to popular belief, screen savers do not save energy. If you've finished for the day, switch everything off at the wall. Laptops use less energy overall than a desktop computer, as do LCD (flatscreen) monitors.

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Layout

Investing time and effort into creating an efficient design and layout for your home office will pay off in the long term, whether you're rearranging the furniture or creating a new space. Simple things, such as positioning your desk near a window to maximise natural light and sunshine, all help to reduce power costs, energy consumption and, ultimately, greenhouse gas emissions. H

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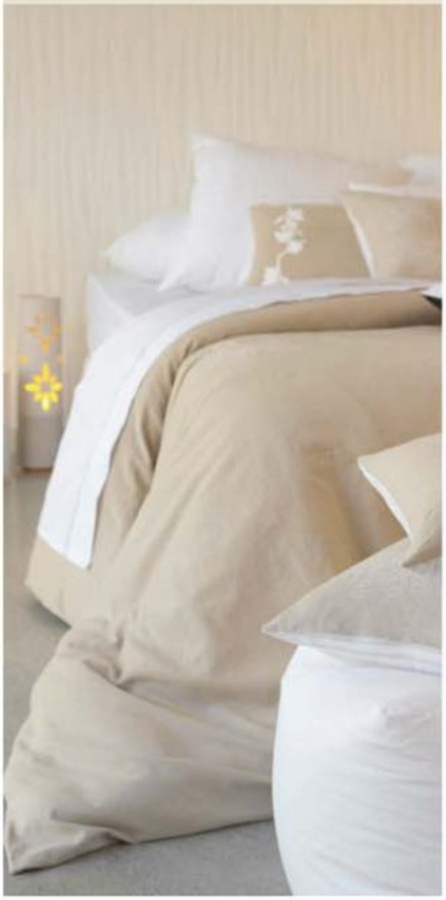

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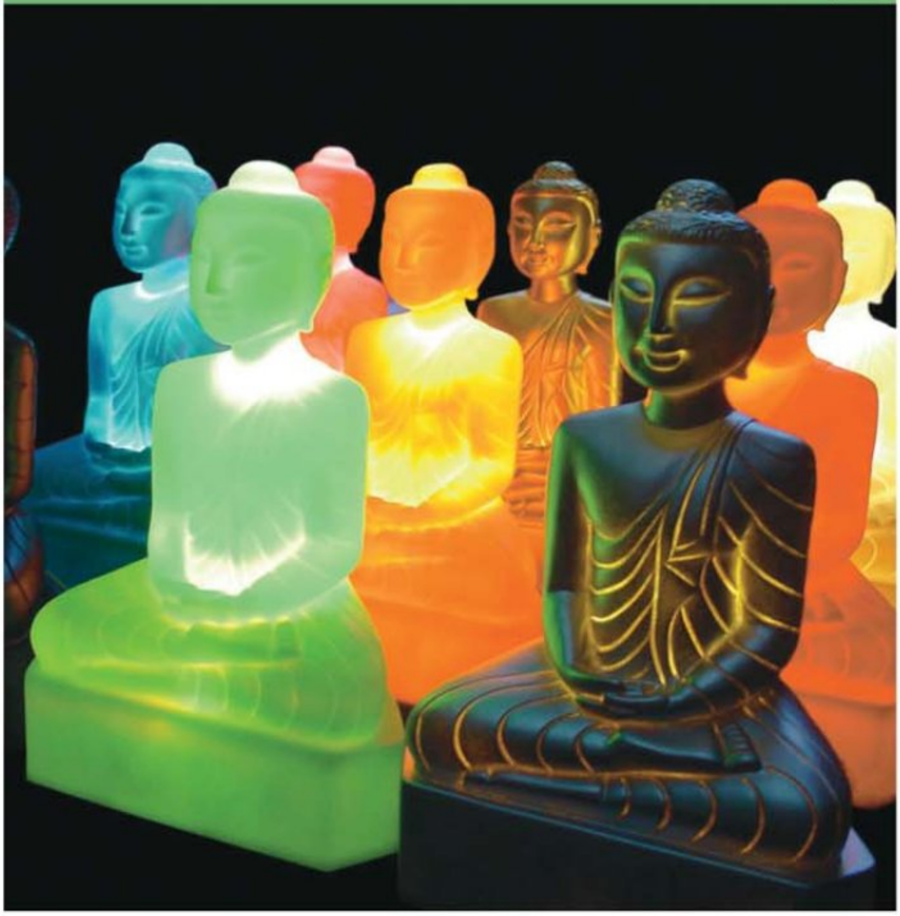

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words: Rachel Macdonald
pictures: courtesy of DécoR Pebble

that rocks!

Hands up those for whom xeriscaping is a new term. Developed in Colorado, it's a landscaping approach centred around water-conscious garden design.

Water, in Vermont, Melbourne, is a precious resource. And that's not conducive to gardens designed along traditional European lines and featuring flowerbeds full of bright – and thirsty – exotics.

At the same time, the answer doesn't have to be a sterile, plant-free backyard. This is what homeowner Geoff Iles was thinking when he decided to take a local approach to transforming his tennis court into a more aesthetically pleasing outdoor space.

"Current water restrictions here are very rigid, so I needed to let go of water-thirsty mainstream garden concepts. However, I didn't see it as a question of giving anything up; it was more about acknowledging and embracing our beautiful Australian landscape, which is enriched by

magnificent drought-tolerant flora", says Geoff. "This garden is my daily relaxation, but it also reminds me to appreciate the fragile nature of our environment. To me, it represents reconciliation with the world around us."

The make-over features the seven basic principles of xeriscaping. These include sensible planning and design, careful soil analysis, practical green areas where required, appropriate plant selection, efficient or no irrigation, use of mulches, and an appropriate level of maintenance.

In a sense the resulting landscape is hereditary – it is a snapshot of the Australian bush, complete with a dry creekbed, designed to look as though a rushing watercourse has deposited the stones and settled them in. Planting features a large range of tough, drought tolerant Australian native plants, such as silver banksia (Banksia marginate), silky purple-flag (Patersonia sericea), tassel-rush, small crowea, tropical rhododendron, 'Dampiera rosmarinifolia', kidney weed, magnolia Heptapeta, whiteroot, native fuchsia, Australian grass tree, and many more. Any non-native plants chosen require less maintenance, water and fertiliser than many of the known exotic species.

"I see it as promoting the often undervalued beauty and practicality of Australian flora," says Geoff. "In addition, it attracts native wildlife, utilises mulching and composting, and eliminates most weeds."

The overall design uses large quantities of Australian local pebbles from DécoR Pebble, which are quarried under licence for sustainability. Goulburn Gold 7mm are used on the garden paths, Aussie Black 50mm+ on the riverbed, and Delatite 30-50mm and 50-200mm around the two golf greens, as well as Riveria 20mm, Ettamogah Red 20-40mm, 50-200mm and Aussie Sandstone 40-100mm. Together, they work as lawn replacement, mulching and ornamental decoration.

So, given his demanding and hectic lifestyle, Geoff's little corner of seclusion works well for him. It doesn't require a lot of maintenance, its natural forms set it well away from the concrete jungle… and its two golf greens mean he can practice his swing whenever the mood takes him. What's more, the artificial grass of those greens is all that remains of the old tennis court.

"I practice my drive from the upstairs balcony," he says. "I use solid foam balls, which can easily make the distance… if hit correctly!" H

Resene
Quarter Solitaire

from you...

From John: I thought I'd just drop you a line and tell you a story you'll like.

Last week, I spent around $500 and three days painting our front fence at the front of our house. My neighbour said: "Mate, it's looking pretty good. I reckon you'll be in for some graffiti". With that, I went back to Resene in Wairau Park and bought some of your magic Resene Uracryl.

To cut a long story short, I woke up this morning to find graffiti all over my fence in bright green paint. They'd also got my neighbour's down the road. I had great pleasure in simply cleaning mine off using Resene Graffitti Cleaner and I have to tell you it looks brand new.

Cheers and thank you

From Tracy: My husband and I have recently worked on two projects in our home, which have been very successful and have cost very little.

The first, the fireplace, was achieved using Resene Sandtex. When we moved into our home, the fireplace was cute enough, but the blue and cream tiles looked out of place. I decided that it would be easy to paint over the tiles. My husband made the mistake of telling me it was impossible, which for me always creates a great challenge!

The local Resene staff assured me that I could give our fireplace a makeover with the help of some Resene Waterborne Smooth Surface Sealer. Once the tiles had been sealed, I filled in the gaps between them as best I could, then I bought a testpot of Resene Sandtex in Resene Armadillo. I 'blobbed' the paint on using a medium-sized paintbrush, and am so thrilled with the effect. Everyone who visits thinks we've had it plastered.

The second project was the kitchen floor. When we moved into the house, there was a patch under and around the oven, where the coal range had obviously once stood. The surface was an uneven mixture of plaster and rough stone. The rest of the kitchen floor was wooden floorboards.

Our initial plan was to tile the floor, but the expense and the time involved for the floor to cure was off-putting. As we have a gas oven, it's out of action when we move it, and the prospect of being without an oven for a week or more was not a good one!

We then got a quote to have the floorboards matched with demolition timber. I'm sure the nice man who came to see us would have done a fabulous job, but I baulk at spending more than $5000 on what is basically a very small patch of floor. And again, the time and the inconvenience, not to mention the dust, ensured that we kept putting the job off... and off.

In the end, we employed a lovely student to chip the floor area in question to a level surface, and then my husband

got a piece of hardboard cut to fit. As it happened, the hardboard fitted so well, we decided to take a punt on painting it to match the surrounding wooden floorboards.

My husband and I both have artistic streaks, so hey – nothing ventured, nothing gained. We colour-matched the wood, again using Resene testpots: Chelsea Gem, Hairy Heath, Fahrenheit and Wood Bark. Add a bit of Vivid marker for nail holes, and varnish, and the rest is history.

All in all, these two projects probably cost us under $200. We could easily have spent way more than $5000 achieving similar results, but we wouldn't have had so much fun!

Congratulations! This letter has won its writer this issue's Hey Habitat best letter prize. We'll be in touch.

We look forward to receiving your letters and queries, and would particularly like to see any weird and wonderful ways you have used Resene paints. The best letter will win a Get Decorating Kit from Resene.

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